



Blue Duck Lawn Care Guidebook

INDIANA EDITION

A Complete
Homeowners Guide
to Healthy, Beautiful
Lawns in Central
Indiana

**MATTHEW
GREEN**

2026



A MESSAGE FROM MATT & THE BLUE DUCK TEAM



When we started Blue Duck Lawn Care, we had one simple goal. We wanted to bring honesty, reliability, and local expertise to homeowners who expected more from their lawn service. Indiana lawns are special. They are part of our community's charm, and we treat each one like it is our own.

Over the years, we have learned that every lawn tells a story. Behind every green yard is a family that plays, a home that grows, and a homeowner who takes pride in caring for their property. This book is our way of sharing what we have learned. We want you to make informed choices, care for your lawn confidently, and enjoy the rewards season after season.

Whether you are doing it yourself or trusting our team to handle the work, we want you to understand the why behind every step. Informed homeowners create healthier lawns and happier communities.

DEDICATION

At Blue Duck Lawn Care, we believe a healthy lawn reflects a healthy home. This guide is built from our years of experience caring for lawns across the Hoosier State.

This book would not exist without the dedication, expertise, and passion of the entire Blue Duck Lawn Care team. Every day, you show up ready to serve our customers and make Indiana lawns healthier, greener, and more beautiful. Thank you for trusting us, for teaching us, and for building something we are all proud to be part of.

A special thanks to Jaida Labrado, whose hard work, attention to detail, and creative spirit helped shape this guide. Your contributions made this book better, and your presence makes Blue Duck stronger.

And to every homeowner who has trusted us with their lawn, thank you. You are the reason we do what we do. **This book is for you.**

– Matthew Green

CEO, Blue Duck Lawn Care





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CHAPTER 1

indiana lawns matter

Your lawn isn't just grass. It's your family's outdoor living room.



More Than Just Grass

In Indiana, lawns aren't just a stretch of grass – ***it's a piece of who we are.***

It's where neighbors wave from their driveways on warm mornings, kids and pets chasing fireflies as the sun dips low, and families gather for weekend cookouts that stretch long past sunset. It is a place for laughter, worn lawn chairs, and memories that quietly grow year after year.

At Blue Duck Lawn Care, we see this every day. Hoosier homeowners are not just looking for green lawns, they want lawns that feel alive, welcoming, and resilient. They want a yard that reflects their home, their effort, and the values they take pride in.

Why Indiana Homeowners love their lawns

- A welcoming lawn invites kids and pets to play, friends gathering, and adds curb appeal.
- It shows care for your property and consideration for your neighborhood.
- Improves first impressions and boosts perceived property value.
- Keeps yards cooler, absorbs storm water, and creates comfortable outdoor space.



A well-kept lawn in an Indianapolis neighborhood, cared for week by week. It is the kind of yard that feels welcoming before you even reach the front door.



The best lawns are grown with knowledge and nurtured with intention. In this chapter you'll learn:

- ✓ Why healthy lawns matter
- ✓ What makes Indiana lawns unique
- ✓ Why soil health is the real secret to turf success
- ✓ How pests, diseases, and timing affect your lawn's performance
- ✓ Hidden opportunities in our weather patterns and growing seasons
- ✓ Why understanding your lawn is the first step to growing one you love

Why Healthy Lawns Matter

It's easy to think of a lawn as just a patch of grass. You mow it, water it, maybe fertilize it once in a while and that's it.

But the truth is, your lawn is a living, breathing ecosystem. When properly cared for, it does more than look beautiful, it supports your health, increases your home's value, and benefits the environment.

Let's explore the real reasons your lawn matters more than you might think.



1. Improves family health

A lush, well-maintained lawn offers both physical and mental health benefits for the entire family.

Safe Play Area for Kids and Pets



Thick, healthy turf cushions fall, making it safer than concrete or compacted dirt.



A dense lawn reduces mud, insects, and weeds that could cause allergies or bites.



Pets benefit as well, since properly maintained grass supports far fewer fleas and ticks than overgrown or neglected areas.



Benefits of a Happy Lawn



Aesthetic & curb-appeal:

A dense, green lawn gives your home a "finished" look, boosts first impressions, and improves satisfaction with your property year-round.

Usable outdoor space: Children, pets, games, outdoor furniture—you gain usable, comfortable space rather than bare soil, weeds or patchy turf.

Seasonal resilience:

A proper lawn program helps your grass withstand summer heat, winter dormancy, and spring swings, leading to fewer major repairs and more consistent enjoyment.

Environmental gains:

A healthy lawn helps control erosion, improve water infiltration, reduce dust, and stabilize soil.

Value retention:

Well-maintained landscapes are correlated with higher property values and more attractive resale prospects.



Stress Reduction & Mental Wellness



Studies show that spending time in green spaces lowers stress, depression, and blood pressure.



Seeing a lush lawn or walking barefoot on soft turf feels calming and grounding.



Your lawn becomes a place to relax, reflect, and reconnect with nature.

2. Environmental Benefits

A healthy lawn supports the ecosystem in quiet but powerful ways.



Water Management & Erosion Control



Healthy grass roots stabilize soil and soak up rainfall, preventing erosion and flooding.



Turf naturally filters water before it reaches sewers or waterways reducing pollution.

Cools & Cleans Air Naturally



Grass-covered areas stay up to 15°F cooler than pavement, helping reduce heat around homes and driveways.



Turfgrass filters airborne particles while absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, improving local air quality.



INSIGHT

Many families with kids or dogs choose Tall Fescue blends for durability and low allergen potential.



FUN FACT

A beautiful lawn is not just curb appeal. It is medicine for the soul.

University of Michigan research led by Dr. MaryCarol Hunter found that spending just 20 to 30 minutes in a natural outdoor setting significantly lowers levels of stress hormones (cortisol).

“
It’s not just grass. It’s where my kids learned to ride bikes. Where we had our first cookout. Where I drink my morning coffee.
”





3. A Boost to Home Value & Curb Appeal

Your lawn is the first thing people see, and first impressions matter.

Increase in Property Value



Landscaping can increase home value by 10–15% and strongly boosts buyer interest.



A thick, well-edged lawn signals a well-maintained home.



Improved Aesthetics & Photography



A healthy lawn creates a clean, inviting backdrop for photos and gatherings.



It enhances symmetry and visual balance around the home.

4. Sustainability & Long-Term Lawn Health



A healthy lawn isn't just short-term eye candy. It also improves sustainability, and resilience.



Thick turf and deep roots reduce weeds and water needs.



Healthy soil lowers fertilizer use through natural nutrient cycling.



Balanced soil and strong roots create a resilient lawn reducing costs and effort.



INSIGHT

In Indiana's competitive market, homes with well-maintained lawns sell faster and often for more.



3 WAYS TO INSTANTLY BOOST CURB APPEAL

- 1 Edge driveways and walkways. Clean, crisp lines instantly make even small lawns look polished and well cared for.
- 2 Feed lightly in early spring. A slow-release fertilizer boosts early color and thickens turf without overstressing it.
- 3 Mow in alternating directions to create clean striping and a professional, finished look.



5. A Lawn You're Proud to Call Yours

There's something deeply satisfying about looking out at your lawn and knowing you did that.



Caring for your lawn, on your own or with Blue Duck, builds pride, purpose, and a stronger connection to your home.



Your lawn reflects your care and grows with you over time.

Your Lawn Gives Back



A healthy lawn gives more than it takes. It gives you:



A space for connection and play



A stronger, more beautiful home exterior



Cleaner air, cooler summers, and safer soil



A sense of satisfaction that grows with time

So the next time someone asks, **"Why put in the effort?"**

You'll have a better answer than "just to make it look nice."

Because healthy lawns matter, for your family, your future, and your home.



Invest in your soil now and your lawn will thrive for years.

Aeration, pH correction, and the right seed create a foundation that pays dividends season after season.



A healthy lawn does more than look good.

Even a modest, well-maintained yard reduces runoff, prevents erosion, and naturally cools your surroundings.



The average lawn has millions of grass plants!

A lawn fills around six grass plants per square inch. Since the average lawn is about one-fifth of an acre, this means there is over 1.2 million square inches in a yard and over seven million plants in that yard. Now imagine how many grass plants there are on a golf course, where there is an average of 74 acres!





Regional Lawn Care Challenges & Opportunities

Living in Indiana, especially in the Indianapolis area, puts you in a unique lawn care environment with both opportunities and real challenges. Understanding these differences helps you tailor your lawn program effectively.



1 Seasonal swings and weather extremes

This section will break down Indiana’s weather patterns, show you how each season affects your turf, and explain how to time your lawn care activities to take full advantage of our natural rhythms.



Winter lawn challenges

- Snow cover can lead to snow mold, especially with leftover fall leaves.
- De-icing salt can cause yellow or bare patches in spring.
- Freeze and thaw cycles heave soil and thin grass.

- Avoid walking on frozen grass
- Remove debris before snowfall
- Mark edges near sidewalks
- Plan next season’s care



Tasks

Spring lawn challenges

- Heavy rain can waterlog soil and trigger fungus.
- Late frosts can damage early growth.
- Weeds thrive in warm or mild, wet conditions.

- Test soil and balance pH
- Light fertilization for green-up
- Apply crabgrass pre-emergent
- Aerate or dethatch if needed





Summer lawn challenges

- Heat dries shallow roots, especially in clay soil.
- Cool-season grass may go dormant and turn brown.
- Insects increase in hot weather and damage roots.
- Fungal diseases.



Tasks

- Mow high at 3.5–4 inches
- Water 1-1.5 inches, early mornings
- Use slow-release fertilizer
- Grub prevention application



Autumn lawn challenges

- Leaves left on the lawn create the perfect habitat for mold and rot.
- Early snow or frost can interrupt fall fertilization or seeding.
- Soil may be compacted after a summer of activity.



Tasks

- Core aeration to reduce compaction
- Overseed thin or bare areas
- Apply fall fertilizer for root strength



TESTIMONIALS



LAURA D.

08/13/2025
Indianapolis, IN

This is our first year with Blue Duck Lawn Care after neglecting our lawn for years. After the first treatments our lawn is looking so much better. It's been three months now and our lawn is looking good! I can't wait until next summer to see the transition! Our tech has been the same person every time and he explains what he will be doing and what they still need to work on. He has been great!



Don't wait too long. Grass seed needs 4 to 6 weeks to germinate and establish before the first hard frost arrives.



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Indiana Lawns Matter



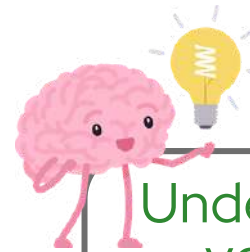
Indiana's Climate: How The Weather Affects Your Lawn

When it comes to growing a healthy lawn in Indiana, understanding the climate is just as important as understanding your soil or your grass type.

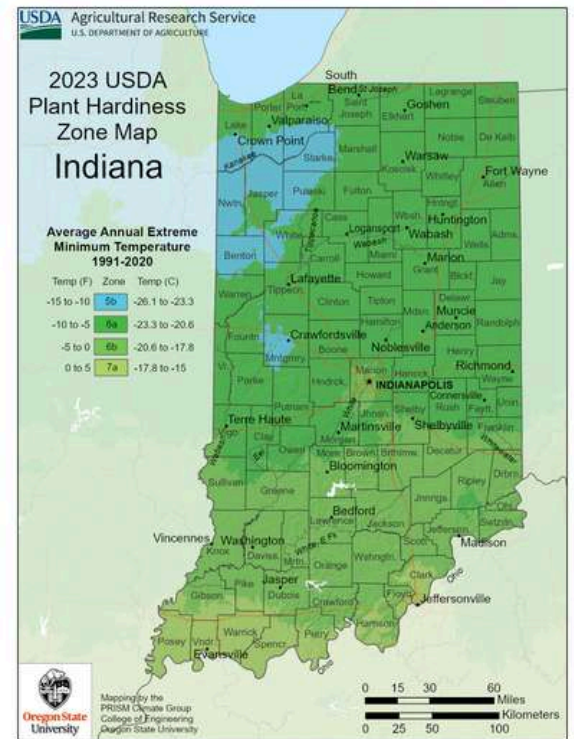
Annual Weather Overview (Statewide)

Weather Factor	Value
Annual Rainfall	38 - 42 inches
Average Summer High	85 - 90°F
Average Winter Low	15 - 25°F
Humidity	High in summer; moderate in spring/fall
Snowfall	20 - 40 inches
Frost Dates	First frost: mid-Oct.

Indiana's changing weather shapes how and when your lawn grows. Spring rain supports growth but can cause muddy soil and disease if drainage is poor. Hot, humid summers stress cool-season grass, making proper mowing and watering critical. Cold winters push lawns into dormancy, so fall care is essential for root strength and winter survival. The first frost in mid-October sets the deadline for seeding and fertilizing.



Understanding your local weather is Smart Lawn Care.



According to the **USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map in 2023**, Indiana spans zones **5b to 7a**.

These zones tell us how cold winter temperatures get and what plants can reliably survive here. For lawns, this means we are firmly in cool-season grass territory.

Work with the seasons, and your lawn will stay healthier and easier to manage.




How Weather Directly Impacts Lawn Care

Shifting weather conditions influence lawn health and the smart adjustments needed to prevent damage, reduce stress, and keep turf healthy year-round.

Weather Pattern	Lawn Impact	Response Strategy
Frequent rain	Root rot, fungus	Improve drainage, reduce watering, apply fungicide if needed
Drought	Dormancy, brown turf	Water deeply once/twice weekly, not daily
Freeze/thaw cycles	Root shearing, compaction	Avoid walking on lawn, aerate in fall
Hot, humid spells	Disease outbreaks (brown patch, dollar spot)	Mow higher, water early morning, improve airflow
Windy springs	Dry out topsoil	We do not recommend seeding in the spring.

Indiana's weather is a blueprint, not a barrier. When care is timed to real conditions instead of the calendar, lawns perform better with fewer wasted treatments. At **Blue Duck**, every service is weather-driven, so Indiana lawns thrive instead of struggle.







Dormancy is not death.
Brown grass in July is resting, not dying. Protect the lawn and water deeply to help it recover.



A clean Fall prevents snow mold.
Snow mold is more likely when leaves or thatch are left behind.

Microclimates

Even within one yard, small microclimates can affect lawn health due to differences in light, moisture, or temperature.

-  Shaded areas under trees stay cooler and wetter, making them more prone to fungal issues.
-  South-facing slopes dry out quickly during summer heat.
-  Low spots tend to hold water after heavy rain.
-  Concrete edges like driveways and sidewalks absorb and radiate heat, stressing nearby grass.

2 Highly Variable Soil Types

This section explains the common soil types found across the state, the problems they create, and how proper testing and targeted amendments turn challenging soil into a strong foundation for healthy, resilient turf.

Understanding Indiana Soil Types



The soil beneath your lawn can either support or limit its success. In Indiana, soil varies widely by region and even between neighboring yards, making soil knowledge essential for healthy grass growth.

Clay soil



Texture:

Dense and sticky when wet; cracks when dry

Benefits:

Naturally rich in nutrients

Challenges:

Poor drainage, compaction, tough for roots to penetrate

How to manage:



Regular aeration to improve airflow



Topdressing with compost to improve structure



Avoid walking on soil or mowing when wet



Soil is a living system made up of:



Minerals:

From weathered rocks



Organic matter:

Decomposed plant & animal material



Air & Water:

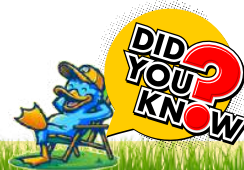
Essential for root respiration & hydration



Microorganisms:

Bacteria, fungi, worms, & insects that support nutrient cycling

An imbalance in any component, like compacted soil having poor air flow, directly hinders lawn health.



Common soil types by region:



Northern Indiana:

Commonly sandy soils



Central Indiana:

Heavy clay is dominant



Southern Indiana:

Loamy soil with clay deposits

Sandy soil



Texture:

Gritty, drains quickly




Benefits:

Easy to work with, warms up early in spring

Challenges:

Nutrients leach out quickly; requires frequent watering

How to manage:

-  Regular aeration to improve airflow
-  Mulch-mowing to recycle nutrients
-  Add compost to retain moisture

Loamy soil



Texture:

Balanced mix of sand, silt, and clay



Benefits:

The ideal balance of moisture, drainage, and texture.

Challenges:

Needs regular upkeep.

How to manage:

-  Seasonal care over soil amendments.
-  Feed soil with compost or mulch.

SOIL TEXTURE

The ratio of sand, silt, and clay determines how your soil behaves. This affects:



Drainage:

Does water pool or pass through too quickly?



Root Growth:

Can grass roots grow deep or are they choked at the surface?



Nutrient Retention:

Does soil hold nutrients long enough for grass to absorb them?

JAR TEST



A DIY method to estimate your soil's texture.

- Fill a clean jar halfway with soil
- Add water leaving an inch of space for air
- Add a drop of dish soap and shake for 1-2 mins
- Allow to settle for 24-48 hours
- Measure the settled layers

Silty soil



Texture:

Smooth and soft, not sticky




Benefits:

Fertile and moisture-retentive

Challenges:

Can compact easily like clay



How to manage:

-  Avoid wet work to prevent compaction
-  Topdress with compost annually to stabilize and enrich soil
-  Minimize foot traffic to keep structure

Soil Testing: Most Important Step

You can't fix what you don't know. That's why we always recommend starting with a soil test before beginning any serious lawn care plan.

How to test your soil

-  **DIY kits:** inexpensive, fast, not accurate.
-  **University lab tests:** Purdue Extension offers excellent options



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

We offer comprehensive soil testing with easy-to-understand results and a treatment plan.

CALL US TODAY  (317) 748-3153

JAR TEST RESULTS



Sandy:

60% sand
30% silt
10% clay



Loamy:

40% sand
40% silt
20% clay



Clay:

15% sand
25% silt
60% clay

Key Soil Test Indicators

pH level

A measure of soil acidity or alkalinity that affects nutrient uptake and grass growth.

CEC

Cation Exchange Capacity measures how well soil holds and releases nutrients, affecting fertilizer efficiency and lawn health.

Organic Matter

Decomposed organic material that improves soil structure, nutrients, moisture retention, and soil life.

Nutrient levels

Shows how much plant food is available to support healthy lawn growth.

Soluble Salts

Indicate the amount of excess minerals in the soil that can stress roots and interfere with water uptake.

Soil-related lawn issues

Problems caused by imbalanced soil that stifle root growth and lawn health.



Compaction

Soil compresses, blocking air and water from roots. Common in clay soils.



Poor drainage

Standing water leads to root rot and shallow rooting.



Nutrient leaching

Sandy soils can't hold on to nutrients long enough for grass to absorb them.



Alkalinity or acidity

pH imbalance makes nutrients unavailable, even if fertilizer is applied.

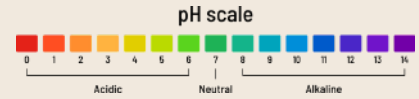


'TIS AN OPPORTUNITY!

With a soil test and proper amendments, you can transform challenging soil. Blue Duck's customized care plans use this data to prescribe precise treatments (like lime, gypsum, compost, or sulfur) for optimal grass health.



DIY PH TESTING



A fun, DIY method to test for pH levels of soil.

Alkaline Test pH > 7

- Put 2 tbsp of soil into cup
- Add ½ cup vinegar. If it fizzes, soil is alkaline



Acid Test pH < 7

- Put 2 tbsp of soil into cup
- Add distilled water just to make thick mud
- Sprinkle baking soda on top, if it fizzes, soil is acidic



If no reaction, it's neutral

CABBAGE WATER TEST

A DIY method to test for soil pH using cabbage water.

- Simmer 1 cup of chopped red cabbage in 2 cups of water for 5 mins
- Remove from heat and let rest for 30 minutes
- Strain off liquid which will be purple/blue
- Combine 2 tsp soil with few inches cabbage water in jar. Stir & wait for 30 min

CHECK THE COLOR

Acidic Alkaline



5 ways to improve your soil overtime

Soil transforms gradually, not instantly. Your steady effort is an investment that compounds, yielding a stronger lawn each year.

1. **Aerate annually**

Essential for clay soil to break compaction and aerate roots.



2. **Topdress with Compost**

The sweet spot is ½ to 1 inch of compost. More can smother grass by blocking light and oxygen.



3. **Use Mulch Clippings**

Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They mulch naturally, recycling nitrogen back into the soil.



4. **Balancing Your Soil's pH**

Apply lime or humic acid only based on soil test results.



5. **Avoid Overwatering**

In clay soil, water deeply, not frequently, promoting deep roots.





Soil is the silent partner in lawn success





By understanding what kind of soil you have, balancing its chemistry, and improving its structure year after year, you create a growing environment that requires less fertilizer, fewer chemicals, and fewer repairs.

FIXING A LAWN WITH SOIL KNOWLEDGE

A homeowner in Fishers, IN, tried everything: premium seed, an irrigation system, and professional mowing. Yet, their lawn kept thinning. Blue Duck's soil test identified the true issues:




-  **Severe compaction**
-  **Acidic soil, pH of 5.2**

Over the year, we:

-  **Aerated once (fall)**
-  **Applied lime based on lab recommendations**
-  **Introduced compost topdressing**
-  **Adopted slow-release nitrogen**

The result?

The following spring, the lawn transformed into a:

-  **Thick, vibrant carpet of green**
-  **Disease resistant**
-  **Requires fewer products and less intervention**

“
**Healthy soil equals a healthy lawn.
Every. Time.**
”





3

Turf Stress from Pests, Diseases, and Drought

Grass doesn't just face the weather, it faces living threats too. When Indiana lawns are already stressed by heat or soil issues, they become vulnerable to pests and disease.




Common lawn pests






White Grubs

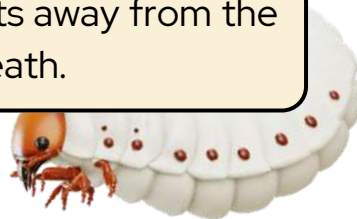
The larval stage of several beetle species, including Japanese beetles, June beetles, and European chafers.

Description

-  Plump, off-white larvae with soft skin and brown heads
-  Six small legs near the front.
-  Size varies from 1/2" to over 1", depending on species and growth stage




Damage Mechanisms

-  Feed directly on grass roots, causing turf to yellow, wilt, and die.
-  Grubs chew on seedlings, stunting or killing young plants
-  Severely damaged grass lifts away from the soil, exposing bare soil beneath.



Grub damage peaks in late summer. Apply preventative treatment in midsummer for effective control.

Signs of Infestation

-  Brown patches that enlarge over time
-  Turf feels spongy or loose when walked on
-  Presence of animals such as raccoons, skunks, or birds digging in the lawn






Grubs visible just under the soil when turf is peeled back.

Chinch bugs






Small but highly destructive insects that feed on turfgrass by draining moisture and injecting toxic saliva.




Description

-  Plump, off-white larvae with soft skin and brown heads
-  Six small legs near the front.
-  Size varies from ½" to over 1", depending on species and growth stage




Damage Mechanisms

-  **Sucking Sap:** Chinch bugs pierce grass stems and crowns to feed on fluids.
-  **Injecting Toxins:** Clogs the plant's vascular system, blocking water and nutrient flow.
-  **Outcome:** Grass turns yellow, then reddish-brown, and eventually dies.

Where to find them

-  Live in the thatch layer (between green grass and soil)
-  Prefer hot, sun-exposed areas like driveways, sidewalks
-  Populations explode during hot, dry weather

Signs of Infestation

-  Yellow or reddish patches
-  No improvement with watering
-  Visible bugs crawling in thatch on warm days



How to Confirm Chinch Bugs

Part the grass at the edge of a brown patch and check for movement in the thatch. For a clear result, try the can test: push a metal can into the soil, fill it with water, and watch for bugs floating to the surface.





Armyworms

Hungry, fast-moving larval stage of various moth species. They feed in large groups, leaving behind brown, chewed-down patches that appear almost overnight. They can strip entire lawns in a matter of days.



Armyworms can destroy a lawn in 2-3 days.

Once you see damage, treatment cannot wait.

Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

- ⚠ The most destructive species in turfgrass.
- ⚠ Feeds aggressively in late summer and fall.
- 🔍 Look for a prominent white inverted "Y" on the dark head and four black spots on the rear forming a square.



True Armyworm (*Mythimna unipuncta*)

A cool-season caterpillar that feeds at night, often going unnoticed until large brown patches appear in spring or fall.

- 🔍 Smooth-bodied with alternating light and dark stripes running lengthwise.



Signs of Infestation

- ⚠ Ragged, chewed leaves with only the midrib remaining
- ⚠ "Windowpane" damage from early-stage larvae
- ⚠ Brown patches appearing overnight, often mistaken for drought
- ⚠ Increased bird activity feeding on larvae

— — — — —
“
A beautiful lawn does not happen by itself.
”
— — — — —

Fungal Diseases

Fungal diseases are some of the most frustrating lawn problems Indiana homeowners face. They often appear suddenly and can spread fast, especially during warm, humid weather or extended wet periods.

If your lawn shows unexplained patches or rapid decline, guessing can do more harm than good.



Many fungal diseases look very similar.

Accurate diagnosis is critical, this is where trained professionals make a real difference.



Brown Patch

Fungus: *Rhizoctonia solani*

A common summer fungus that forms circular brown patches with a dark "smoke ring" border.

Brown patch treatment:

- ✓ Reduce evening watering
- ✓ Reduce excess nitrogen
- ✓ Apply a targeted fungicide
- ✓ Improve air flow and drainage
- ✓ Raise mowing height



Snow Mold

Fungus: *Typhula spp.*

A winter fungus that appears as matted, whitish or pinkish patches when snow melts in early spring.

Snow mold treatment:

- ✓ Light raking to stand grass up
- ✓ Improve fall cleanup
- ✓ Improve mowing practices
- ✓ Preventative fungicides in fall
- ✓ Most lawns recover naturally



Dollar Spot

Fungus: *Clarireedia jacksonii*

A summer fungus that creates small, straw-colored patches about the size of a silver dollar.

Snow mold treatment:

- ✓ Correct nitrogen deficiency
- ✓ Water deeply and infrequently
- ✓ Apply appropriate fungicides
- ✓ Maintain balanced fertility

Drought

A prolonged lack of rainfall or irrigation that forces cool-season grasses into dormancy. Grass turns brown and stops growing to conserve energy, but the crown and roots remain alive.



A lawn under drought stress.

While unsightly, this is the lawn's natural survival response. Proper care will bring it back when rain returns.



'TIS AN OPPORTUNITY!

Proactive care prevents most problems. Seasonal aeration, targeted fungicides, pest monitoring, and proper watering cost far less than emergency repairs.



4

Nutrient Management & Runoff Concerns

Indiana soils often have higher levels of phosphorus, a nutrient necessary for root development. However, over-fertilizing with phosphorus can lead to:



Algal blooms

Excess fertilizer can wash into local waterways, fueling algal blooms that harm aquatic life.



Fines or regulation issues

Improper fertilizer use can lead to local fines and environmental violations under Indiana's lawn care guidelines.



Wasted Money

Soil testing first before applying fertilizers ensures every dollar you spend actually benefits your lawn.



Some Indiana counties restrict phosphorus fertilizers.

Unless a soil test proves an actual deficiency. Applying without testing could violate local regulations.

'TIS AN OPPORTUNITY!



Indiana's environmental focus has created a more responsible lawn care culture.

Soil testing and smart product choices let you grow a healthy lawn that is also safe for local waterways.





5 Timing is Everything

In lawn care, when you act matters as much as what you use. If you miss your window you may be stuck waiting another year.

Common mistakes homeowners make

- ❌ **Overseeding too late in fall or seeding in spring.** Mid-august to mid-october is the ideal window.
- ❌ **Not fertilizing during summer heatwaves.** Fertilizers high on potassium helps lawn's defense against heat stress and drought.
- ❌ **Applying pre-emergent too late in spring.** Apply too late and you miss the window, giving weeds a head start that lasts all season.
- ❌ **Aerating when the soil is too wet.** Aerating soggy soil tears turf, creates muddy ruts, and worsens compaction

SUMMARY: We're in this together

A great lawn doesn't happen by accident, and it doesn't happen alone. It takes knowledge, timing, and sometimes a little help from people who know Indiana soil and seasons as well as you know your own backyard.

You only need to remember a couple of things:

- ✅ **Healthy lawns give back.** Cools the air, filter water, reduce stress, and increase home value.
- ✅ **Lawns face real challenges.** Weather, clay, pests, and timing, just to name a few.

Next up...

You've seen the big picture. Now let's get our hands dirty. Next, we dive into Soil & Seasonal Basics!



'TIS AN OPPORTUNITY!

With proper planning and local expertise, you can hit every seasonal window with precision.

Ensuring every treatment hits the right window, maximizing results and your investment.



We design specific seasonal care schedules.

That means no opportunity is missed and no treatment is wasted. Your lawn gets exactly what it needs, exactly when it needs it.



Fall is your lawn's most powerful season.

A single round of aeration, seeding, and fertilization in autumn outperforms an entire spring and summer of guesswork.



CHAPTER 2

groundwork

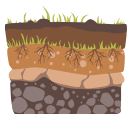
Build from the ground up

Know before you grow 🌱🌱🌱

Building the foundation of a healthy lawn

A great lawn isn't built on a weekend. It takes time. It takes timing. Success starts below the surface, where roots grow and soil matters more than anything else.

In Indiana, heavy soils and unpredictable weather make that foundation even more important. To get results that last, you need more than effort, you need a plan. Guesswork leads to wasted time and money. Strategy turns effort into progress.



Understanding Indiana's Soil Types

Indiana's soils are a product of its glacial history and varied geography. Homeowners across the state especially in the Indianapolis metro area, typically contend with one of the following:



Let's break down how Indiana's main soil types impact lawn health.



Indiana's lawns sit on diverse soil types, from heavy clay in Carmel and Fishers to loamy soils in Greenwood.



This chapter is where lawn care becomes intentional. You'll learn:

- ✓ The three major soil types found in Indiana
- ✓ How to identify your soil type
- ✓ Key soil test indicators and what it means
- ✓ What each season demands from your lawn care routine
- ✓ The critical mistakes to avoid for each season



CLAY SOIL

Dense, nutrient-rich soil that compacts easily, drains poorly, and requires aeration to support healthy roots. Mostly found in Central Indiana.



Impacts on lawns:

Roots suffocate without enough air

Water may sit on the surface, promoting disease or rot

Compaction is a constant problem

Clay Soil



Aerate annually, especially in Fall to break up compaction.



Topdress with compost after aeration..



Choose deep-rooted grasses like tall fescue.



LOAM SOIL

Balanced mix of sand, silt, and clay that drains well, holds nutrients, and supports strong root growth, making it ideal for healthy lawns.



Impacts on lawns:

Ideal for most cool-season turfgrasses

Fewer amendments needed

Best long-term results with minimal effort

INSIGHT



We recommend at least one core aeration each year for central Indiana clay lawns, and two for high traffic areas.

Loam Soil



Add organic matter annually



Test pH annually to monitor changes over time



Avoid over-amending, this is already a great soil



SANDY SOIL

Sandy soil drains quickly and warms early in spring but struggles to hold water and nutrients, requiring more frequent feeding and irrigation.



Impacts on lawns:



Grass may dry out fast in summer



Fertilizers leach away quickly



Surface erosion can occur after heavy rain



Identifying your lawn's soil

Learn what's beneath your lawn so you can make informed decisions that support healthier roots, better growth, and long-term results.

Why test your soil?

- ✓ Reveals pH issues and nutrient deficiencies
- ✓ Prevents wasted fertilizer and treatments
- ✓ Customizes your care plan for real results

When to test your soil?



Best times: Early spring or Early fall



How often: Every 2-3 years or before a new fertilizing program

Sandy Soil



Water more frequently, but in smaller amounts



Use slow-release or organic fertilizers to reduce nutrient loss.



Mulch-mow to recycle moisture and nutrients



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How to identify your soil? (DIY version)

MATERIALS



Trowel



Plastic bag



Clean bucket



Soil test kit



Clean Jar



Note and pen



Distilled Water



Dish Soap

PROCEDURE



● Take 5–10 plugs from around the lawn (4–6" deep)

● Mix soil samples in a bucket and remove debris.



● Follow the soil test kit instructions using the mixed soil sample.



● Record results. Package 1 to 2 cups of sampled soil to Purdue Extension Soil Lab



● Optional: Jar Test for soil texture

Fill a clear jar halfway with soil, add water to nearly the top leaving 1 inch of space, add a drop of dish soap, shake well, and let settle for 24 hours. Sand settles first, then silt, then clay.

SCREWDRIVER TEST

A quick, free way to check soil compaction and moisture.



SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to take you to the Youtube tutorial video of the Screwdriver Test

Procedure:

1. Grab a clean screwdriver with a 6 to 8 inch shaft.
2. Choose several spots, including sunny, shady, high-traffic, and stressed areas.
3. Push the screwdriver straight into the soil with steady pressure and note how easily it goes in.

Results:



4–6 inches easily:

Healthy, well-moist soil



1–2 inches or hard to

push: Compacted/dry



Soft and spongy: Too

wet, let it drain first

WHEN TO BEST USE SCREWDRIVER TEST?

- Before aeration- to check compaction
- Before watering- to confirm need
- After heavy rain- to spot drainage issues
- During summer stress- to guide watering depth



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

We provide professional **soil testing** with **lab analysis** and a **custom treatment plan**.

CALL US TODAY ☎ (317) 748-3153

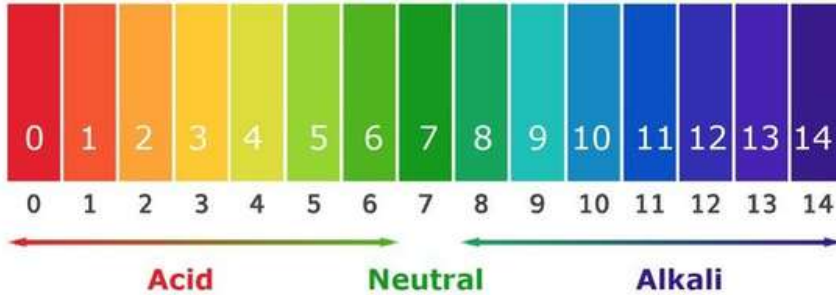




What a Soil Test Tells You

A soil test shows your lawn's **pH, nutrient levels, soluble salts, and organic matter** so you can make precise decisions instead of guessing.

pH Level



pH level shows how **acidic or alkaline** your soil is and whether nutrients are available for your grass to use.

The “**sweet spot**” for most lawns in Central Indiana is a **pH level between 6 to 7**.

That’s the range in which your grass roots absorbs nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium effectively.

If higher than 7, soil becomes more alkaline preventing grass from absorbing key nutrients, causing thinning and more weed growth.



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Our **Clay Soil Conditioning Program** will help gradually lower the pH and improve nutrient uptake.

If below 6, soil becomes acidic, causing weak root systems, poor seed germination, and nutrient lockout.



If pH level is higher than 7, add sulfur, organic matter like compost, or soil conditioners designed to reduce alkalinity.

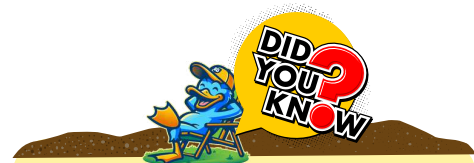


If pH level is below 6, we recommend applying Lime treatment to raise soil pH level back into healthy range.



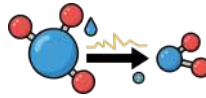
Test soil every 2-3 years, especially before fertilizing.

It is essential if past programs haven't delivered results.



Some newer subdivisions, like Zionsville or Noblesville, use imported loam in front yards, while backyards often still contain compacted clay.

CEC - Cation Exchange Capacity



CEC measures how well soil holds and releases nutrients to plant roots.

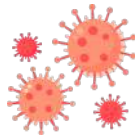
CEC is determined by a professional lab using your soil sample and is typically included in comprehensive soil analysis reports.

The ideal range for lawns is a **CEC between 10 to 20 meq/100g** implying good nutrient retention and more consistent feeding for your lawn.

High CEC (above 25–30): Nutrients bind too tightly, often in heavy clay soils, leading to poor drainage, compaction, and limited root oxygen.

Low CEC (below ~10): Soil can't hold nutrients, so fertilizer leaches quickly, requiring more frequent feeding and watering.

Organic Matter



Organic matter is decomposed plant and microbial material that improves soil structure, nutrient availability, moisture retention, and soil life.

3-5% organic matter supports healthy soil life.

If too high: Soil holds excess moisture and increases fungal disease risk.



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Our **Clay Soil Conditioning Program** improves organic breakdown and microbial balance..

If too low: Poor soil structure and weak nutrient cycling.



If CEC is too high, aerate, compost and improve soil structure to increase oxygen and nutrient access.



If CEC is too low, add organic matter and use slow-release fertilizer to improve nutrient retention.



If organic matter is too high, the solution is to aerate, improve drainage, and avoid adding compost until levels balance.



If organic matter is too low, the solution is to topdress with quality compost to boost microbes and improve structure.

Nutrient levels



Nutrient levels show how much essential plant food is available in your soil and whether your lawn can access it effectively for healthy growth.

7 14.006
N
Nitrogen

Nitrogen

Drives green color and blade growth

15 30.973
P
Phosphorus

Phosphorus

Supports root development and seeding health

19 39.098
K
Potassium

Potassium

Improves stress tolerance, disease resistance, and overall strength

Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium are the key nutrients that fuel lawn growth, color, and resilience. Balanced levels help grass grow strong roots, stay green, and withstand stress from heat, drought, and disease.

Soluble Salts



These refer to the total concentration of dissolved mineral salts present in the soil solution. These are measured as electrical conductivity (EC).

20 40.078
Ca
Calcium

12 24.304
Mg
Magnesium

11 22.989
Na
Sodium

SO₃²⁻

NO₃⁻

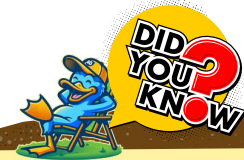
At proper levels, salts support plant growth. **Too high**, they block water uptake and stress roots. **Too low**, nutrient availability can be limited, slowing growth.



INSIGHT

Every fertilizer label tells a story with three numbers.

The image above (10-20-10) shows the exact percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the product, always in that order (N-P-K).



Miami silt loam is Indiana's state soil and is common around Indianapolis, offering good turf support with proper care.



“
Happy lawns start beneath the surface.
”

Adapting to Indiana's Four Seasons



Indiana has a true four-season climate (humid continental), which impacts when and how you care for your lawn. Timing is everything here.

SPRING Soil warms, grass exits dormancy, and weeds emerge quickly.



✓ KEY TASKS

- Light raking & cleanup
- Pre-emergent for crabgrass
- Light nitrogen-based fertilizer
- Spot-spray for dandelions and clover

MISTAKES

- ✗ Mowing wet grass
- ✗ Fertilizing too late
- ✗ Aerating and Seeding
- ✗ Not applying pre-emergent before soil reaches 55°F.



SUMMER Grass slows, heat stress and pests increase, drought risk rises.



✓ KEY TASKS

- Mow high (3.5–4")
- Apply grub control in late June
- Watch for disease (brown patch, dollar spot)
- Water deeply in early mornings (1"–1.5" weekly)

MISTAKES

- ✗ Overwatering (can lead to fungus)
- ✗ Mowing too low or too often
- ✗ Not fertilizing



AUTUMN Cool nights and warm soil fuel peak root growth as weeds decline.



✓ KEY TASKS

- Core aeration and overseeding (early Sept)
- Fertilize with a balanced blend
- Final mow around Halloween (2.5" height)
- Leaf cleanup to prevent snow mold

MISTAKES

- Seeding too late (grass won't establish before frost)
- Not aerating (it's #1 improvement opportunity)



WINTER Grass is dormant, soil is frozen, and snow, ice, and salt can damage turf.

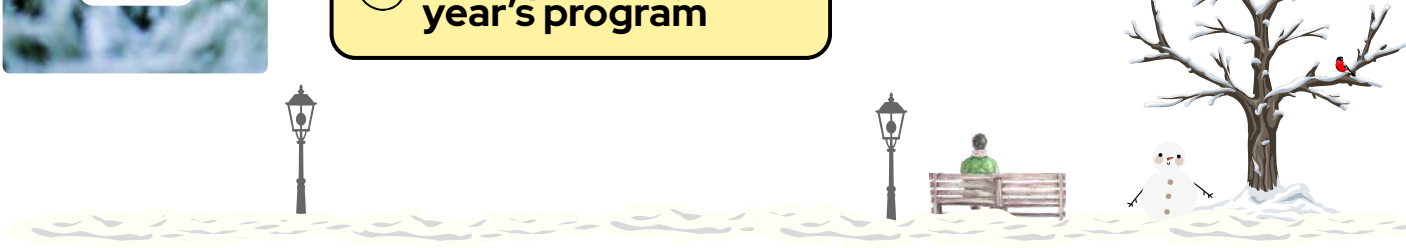


✓ KEY TASKS

- Sharpen mower blades
- Clean and store tools
- Avoid heavy foot traffic on the lawn
- Start planning next year's program

MISTAKES

- Piling snow on the same turf areas
- Using salt near grass edges
- Walking on frosted grass



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Enjoy the time you spend outside by taking the lawn work out of the equation. ☎ (317) 748-3153

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Lawn Calendar for Hoosiers



Never miss a critical lawn care step again. This table organizes the most important maintenance tasks by month, optimized for the Hoosier state's growing zones.

MONTH	KEY TASKS
MARCH	Light raking, soil testing, apply crabgrass pre-emergent, mower prep
APRIL	Light fertilizer, first mow
MAY	Spot weed control, irrigation if dry
JUNE	Mow high, monitor moisture, and watch for pests, apply grub control
JULY	Water early morning, mow high
AUGUST	Begin prepping for aeration/seeding
SEPTEMBER	Core aerate, overseed, apply balanced fertilizer
OCTOBER	Leaf removal, Fall fertilization
NOVEMBER	Final mow (~2.5"), shut down irrigation, clean tools, protect shrubs
DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY	Equipment service, avoid lawn foot traffic, plan for the next season

In sandy soils, use compost or peat moss and seed blends to lock in moisture for germination.



A real **soil test report**. Pinpoint deficiencies so you can treat the cause, not just the symptoms.

HAPPY LAWN
 A proven package for your best lawn yet. Includes:

- ✓ Complete lawn analysis
- ✓ Service warranty
- ✓ 6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan
- ✓ Pre-Emergent Grub Control
- ✓ 1 Free Surface Pest Treatments

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SUMMARY: Soil is the Heart of the Lawn

Think of your soil as a living partner. Manage it wisely and time your care correctly, and it will repay you with a resilient lawn. Lasting success requires more than effort; it requires this strategic partnership.

Smart Soil Management



The foundation of your lawn is its soil. Start with understanding your soil type to know its unique challenges with drainage and compaction. Your soil type will then dictate your entire care strategy.

Getting a soil test is the next critical step, revealing pH, organic matter, CEC, and nutrient levels to pinpoint exact deficiencies and imbalances.

This foundational work ensures that every bit of water, seed, and fertilizer you apply can be effectively used by your grass. Without it, you are merely treating symptoms, not building health.

Perfect Seasonal Timing



Successful lawn care moves in time with Indiana's four seasons. By syncing your core tasks with the lawn's growth cycles, particularly in early fall, you convert effort into visible and durable results.

Next Up...

You've got the map (your soil test) and the schedule (the seasonal calendar). Next, let's talk about the fuel that will power your lawn's journey to health. Fertilizing is where science meets strategy!



Test your soil:
Do this every 2-3 years in early spring or fall.



Aerate annually:
Essential for compacted clay soils; best done in fall.



Seed in Fall:
The prime window for new grass is mid-August to mid-October.



Follow the Calendar:
Follow the monthly guide to work with the grass's seasonal needs.



Mid-August to mid-October is the best time for major lawn improvements.

“
Take care of the soil, and the soil will take care of the grass.
”

CHAPTER 3

the fertilizer playbook

*The right feed
at the right time.*



Feed with purpose

Feeding your lawn the right way, right time

Fertilizer is more than just lawn food; it's targeted nutrition. It fills the gaps in your soil to build grass that's dense, vigorous, and built to last.

Indiana's unique challenges make this targeted nutrition non-negotiable. Our clay soil may hold moisture, but it often locks away nutrients. When you add unpredictable weather, seasonal stress, and demanding turf types, the line between struggle and success is drawn by one thing: the quality, timing, and balance of your fertilizer program.

The Big Three: N-P-K

Your lawn needs a balanced diet, much like you do. The foundation of this nutrition comes from three primary macronutrients: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K). Together, they form a system fueling growth, strengthening roots, and improving stress tolerance.

NITROGEN - The Color & Density Builder



The engine of visible growth, giving your lawn its lush, vibrant color and promoting vigorous leaf and blade development.

Too little nitrogen → pale, thin grass.

Too much nitrogen → super-fast growth that's weak, thirsty, and disease-prone.

This chapter is your playbook. By the end you'll understand:

- ✓ *What fertilizer does (and doesn't do)*
- ✓ *What those three numbers on the labels really mean*
- ✓ *How Indiana soil affects fertilizer*
- ✓ *Difference between organic and synthetic options*
- ✓ *When and how often you should fertilize*
- ✓ *How to avoid wasting money or harming your lawn*



OR IF IT FEELS LIKE A LOT...

That's okay! That's why Blue Duck exists:

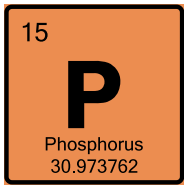
to handle the science and the schedule for you.

☎ (317) 868-5292

“
The aim of the wise is not to secure the most fertilizer, but to waste the least.
”



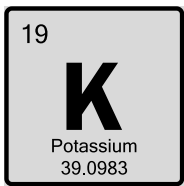
PHOSPHORUS - The Root Starter



This nutrient works below the surface to build a strong foundation. It's essential for encouraging deep, extensive root growth.

Phosphorus is critical for successfully establishing new lawns from seed, ensuring young grass gets a vigorous start.

POTASSIUM - The Stress Shield



The lawn's multivitamin for stress. It fortifies grass against heat, cold, drought, and disease by strengthening cell walls and improving plant vigor.

It's the key nutrient for winter hardiness and ensuring a strong, quick recovery in the spring.

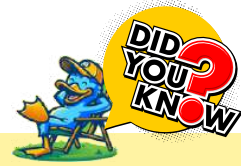
You'll see more potassium in late fall **"winterizer"** fertilizers, because that's when your grass needs it most.

What fertilizer doesn't do

Fertilizer is a powerful tool, but it's not a cure-all. It cannot overcome fundamental problems in your lawn's growing environment, which includes:

- ❌ Fix compaction (that's what aeration is for)
- ❌ Kill weeds (that's weed control)
- ❌ Fight disease (use fungicide or habit fixes)
- ❌ Fix poor mowing or watering habits

Think of it this way, **fertilizer is the fuel, your soil and practices are the engine.**



Phosphorus is typically already sufficient in mature Indiana soils.

That is why state law restricts its application, protecting local waterways from nutrient runoff.



Nitrogen is the primary nutrient Indiana lawns need in spring and fall.

Add phosphorus only when a soil test confirms a deficiency.



Use a slow-release synthetic blend in early spring and fall.

Supplement with organic material like compost to build long-term soil health.

Balanced feeding is the backbone of every resilient Indiana lawn.



The pH-Fertilizer Connection

The soil's pH is the gatekeeper of your lawn's nutrition. Even the perfect fertilizer is powerless if your soil is too acidic or alkaline.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14

When the **soil's pH is too high or alkaline**, it's like your lawn is locked out of its own food supply.

Key nutrients like iron, manganese, phosphorus, and zinc become chemically "bound" or fixed in the soil, disabling roots to absorb them.

Symptom: Yellowing between leaf veins despite regular fertilization.

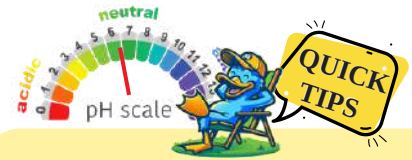
Time and money are wasted on fertilizer the lawn can't use. Lower the pH first, typically by applying elemental sulfur, before investing in more fertilizers.

1
2
3
4
5

When the **soil's pH is too low or acidic**, it creates a toxic environment for your lawn. Nutrients like aluminum and manganese can become soluble at levels that are poisonous to grass roots.

Symptoms: Stunted growth, thinning, and a general lack of vigor, even with fertilization. Weeds like sorrel and certain mosses often thrive in acidic conditions.

Fertilizer becomes largely ineffective, and the lawn struggles to survive due to nutrient deficiency and toxicity. Solution is to raise the pH by applying lime.



Aim for pH 6.0–7.0.

In this range, grass absorbs nutrients best and your care efforts become more effective.



HAPPY LAWN PLUS+

A proven package for your best lawn yet plus performance enhancing services:

- ✓ Complete lawn analysis
- ✓ Service warranty
- ✓ 6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan
- ✓ Pre-Emergent Grub Control
- ✓ 1 Free Surface Pest Treatments
- ✚ Mechanical aeration and overseeding

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“
The best fertilizer
is the one your soil
actually needs.
”



Understanding N-P-K Ratios

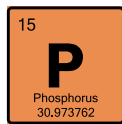
Every fertilizer bag features a prominent three-number code: the N-P-K ratio. This is your lawn's nutrition label, representing Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K).

Breaking down the label

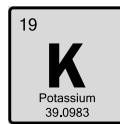
Every fertilizer bag lists three numbers in this order:



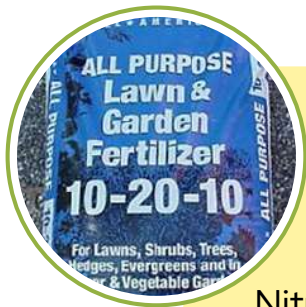
Nitrogen



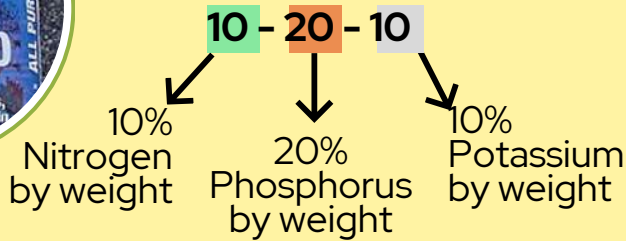
Phosphorus



Potassium



For example in this image:



The rest of the bag is filler material that helps spread those nutrients evenly and the carrier (often clay) that holds the nutrients.

Learning to read these numbers empowers you to feed your lawn precisely, turning guesswork into visible results while avoiding costly mistakes.



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

You never have to buy, measure, or apply fertilizer again. We do the science and the labor; you get a lush, resilient lawn.

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FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY: INDIANA GUIDELINES

Indiana has specific lawn nutrient regulations aimed at protecting water quality.

- ⚠️ Apply phosphorus solely based on a soil test recommendation.
- ⚠️ Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from storm drains or streams.
- ⚠️ Sweep fertilizer off sidewalks and driveways. Don't wash it into streets.

GOOD NEIGHBOR FERTILIZING

The practice of applying fertilizer responsibly to protect local waterways and ecosystems.

- 👍 **Watch the forecast.** Never fertilize before heavy rain to prevent nutrient runoff.
- 👍 **Keep it on the lawn.** Sweep any fertilizer from hard surfaces back onto the grass.
- 👍 **Protect the drains.** Never rinse or dump fertilizer into storm drains or waterways.
- 👍 **Respect dormancy.** Avoid fertilizing dormant grass, as nutrients will not be absorbed.



SEASONAL FERTILIZING PLAN

Organic vs. Synthetic fertilizers

“Should I use organic or synthetic fertilizer?”

The short answer: **YES**. The truth is that both options have strengths and both can be part of a healthy, sustainable lawn care plan.

For Indiana homeowners, the real power lies in knowing when to use each type and how they complement one another.

Organic fertilizers

Slow-release nutrients derived from natural materials (like compost, manure, or bone meal). They feed the soil's ecosystem first, improving long-term structure and microbial life, which in turn nourishes your lawn gradually and sustainably. Ideal for building soil health over time.

PROS

- Improve soil structure over time
- Feed beneficial microbes
- Lower risk of burning your lawn
- Good for long-term soil health

CONS

- Slower, more gradual results
- Nutrient percentages are lower
- More expensive per pound of nutrient

Organic fertilizer is like eating whole foods: great for long-term health, slower to see instant “flashy” results.

Blue Duck programs follow this 6-step application optimized for Indiana lawns.

1ST APPLICATION EARLY SPRING (Mar-Apr)

Focuses on repairing winter damage while establishing a crucial pre-emergent barrier against weeds.

Gently wake the lawn with a light, slow-release nitrogen blend to avoid a sudden growth spurt.

2ND APPLICATION LATE SPRING (May-Jun)

Supports vibrant color while preparing the grass for heat stress.

Apply a balanced fertilizer with mostly slow-release nitrogen to build lawn strength and density.

3RD & 4TH APPLICATION SUMMER (Jun-Aug)

Focuses on lawn's defense from heat stress and drought.

Focus on defense, using a mild, slow-release fertilizer that includes insect control to preempt grub damage.

5TH APPLICATION EARLY FALL (Sept)

The ideal time to overseed thin areas, especially after core aeration.

Regrow roots and thicken the turf with a nitrogen-rich fertilizer balanced with potassium.

6TH APPLICATION LATE FALL (Oct-Early Nov)

Strengthen roots and storing capacity for a vigorous spring start.

Prepares lawn for winter dormancy and ensure an early spring green-up with a "Winterizer" high in potassium.



Synthetic fertilizers

Concentrated, fast-acting nutrients manufactured for immediate results. They provide a precise, readily available N-P-K ratio to correct deficiencies and promote rapid green-up, but require careful application to avoid burning grass or nutrient runoff.

PROS

Quick, visible results
Exact control over N-P-K ratios
More affordable
Easy to time around seasons and lawn needs

CONS

Can burn grass if overapplied
Overuse can reduce microbial diversity
More risk of runoff if misused

Synthetic fertilizer is like a precise supplement: powerful, but requires correct timing and dosage.

The Best of Both Worlds: A Blended Strategy

For most Indianapolis homeowners, the smartest approach is a **hybrid or a combined strategy of using organic and synthetic fertilizers.**



In summer, use organic or organic blends. They feed slowly, support soil life, and protect grass from heat stress and disease.



Apply synthetic slow-release fertilizers in spring and fall. Cool temperatures and ample moisture allow your lawn to convert those nutrients into thick, vigorous growth.



Fertilizer Fiction: Myths Debunked

MYTH:

"More fertilizer = greener lawn."

TRUTH:

More fertilizer = more risk. The goal is **balance**, not overload.

MYTH:

"If I don't see changes in 24 hours, it doesn't work."

TRUTH:

Most fertilizers show results in 5 to 14 days. Liquid fertilizers act fast but fade quickly, while granular products work slower and last longer.

MYTH:

"4 fertilizers per year is plenty, that's what I've always done."

TRUTH:

Pros use more frequent applications purposely, so there aren't highs and lows in the lawn's nutrients.



Liquid vs Granular Fertilizer

Fertilizers come in two main forms: **granular and liquid**. Each one serves a different purpose, and knowing which to use can save you time and money.

GRANULAR FERTILIZER



Looks like pellets

Spread with a broadcast spreader

Great for routine seasonal feedings

Long-lasting and homeowner-friendly

At Blue Duck, we typically:

- ✓ Use granular for foundational seasonal fertilizer
- ✓ Use liquid for specialty work like iron treatments or specialty amendments.



At Blue Duck, we use a **6-step fertilization**. This approach:

- ✓ Feeds the lawn steadily
- ✓ Reduces burn risk
- ✓ Supports root development
- ✓ Improves stress tolerance
- ✓ Matches Indiana's fluctuating spring and fall weather

LIQUID FERTILIZER



Mixed with water and sprayed on

Absorbed quickly through leaves and soil

Great for quick fixes, micronutrients, and spot treatments

Often used by pros for precision work

“
Lawns aren't painted; they're grown. Fertilizer is the brush, but patience is the artist.
”







STEP-BY-STEP FERTILIZER APPLICATION

How to Apply Fertilizer Correctly

Putting the right fertilizer down the wrong way is like buying great groceries and leaving them on the counter. Application technique matters.

Application is an art and a science. You can buy the right fertilizer, at the right ratio, at the right time and still get disappointing results if you don't apply it properly.

-  Uneven coverage leads to streaks.
-  Spills can burn your lawn.
-  Overlap can cause patches of dark green growth.
-  Skipping the post-application watering means your fertilizer may never activate at all.

Tools You Need



Broadcast spreader

PPE (gloves, glasses, shoes)



Broom or blower

Hose or irrigation system



Rain gauge or canned "depth tester"

01

Measure your lawn. Know roughly how many square feet you're treating.

02

Read the label. Match the rate (lbs/1,000 sq ft) and spreader setting on the bag.

03

Calibrate, test spreader equipment. Apply the correct rate. Too much burns lawn; too little wastes effort.

04

Treat the perimeter first. Walk the edges of your yard to create a "border pass."

05

Fill in the middle and sweep stray granules. Put anything on the sidewalk back onto the grass.

06

Water it in. For granular fertilizer, a light watering helps nutrients move into the soil.

Application Rates. How Much Is Enough?

Fertilizer is fuel for your lawn. You don't fill your car's gas tank until it overflows. You fill it to the recommended level so it runs efficiently. Applying the correct rate ensures your lawn runs smoothly without "flooding the engine."

The Simple Math of Fertilizer Application

A practical guide to calculating the exact fertilizer amount your lawn needs, using straightforward math from the bag's label. Here's the basic formulas:

Total Nitrogen needer per year
[Lawn size ÷ 1,000] x Target lbs of nitrogen

Nitrogen per application
Annual nitrogen ÷ Number of applications

Fertilizer bags list nitrogen percentage, not pounds of nitrogen. For example:



A 50 lbs bag has NPK ratio of 24-0-6 which means it contains 24% Nitrogen.

So, 50 lbs of product multiplied by 24% is equal to **12 lbs of actual nitrogen.**

Why this matters: Applying fertilizer without calculating rates leads to overlap, uneven coverage, burned spots, and wasted money.

Feeding your lawn by square footage and annual nitrogen goals ensures correct nutrition, prevents stress, improves consistency, and delivers predictable results.



PUTTING IT TO THE TEST

6,500 Square Foot Lawn

Assuming a program says:
3 lbs of N per 1,000 sq.ft
per year

Step 1: Annual Nitrogen Target

$$\left(\frac{\text{Lawn size}}{1000}\right) \times \text{Target lbs of nitrogen}$$

$$\left(\frac{6500}{1000}\right) \times 3 \text{ lbs}$$

$$6.5 \times 3 \text{ lbs} = \mathbf{19.5 \text{ lbs of nitrogen per year}}$$

Step 2: Nitrogen per application

6 applications per year, so:

$$19.5 \div 6 = \mathbf{3.25 \text{ lbs of nitrogen per app}}$$

Step 3: Convert to Fertilizer Product

Using a 24-0-6 fertilizer:

$$3.25 \div 0.24 = \mathbf{13.5 \text{ lbs of fertilizer per app}}$$

Result:
A 6,500 sq ft lawn needs about 13-14 lbs of fertilizer (24-0-6) per treatment, applied six times per year.

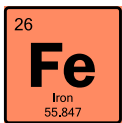
Why Different Ratios Matter

Your lawn's needs change dramatically with Indiana's seasons. Choosing the correct N-P-K ratio at the right time ensures you're not just feeding your lawn, but fueling its specific, seasonal mission.

Seasons	Timing	Fertilizer Type	Purpose
Early Spring	March to Early April	Light nitrogen (Slow-release)	Jumpstart growth (avoid overfeeding)
Late Spring	May	Balanced	Feeds without stressing turf
Summer	June to August	High Potassium	Lawn needs protection from heat stress
Early Fall	September	Nitrogen Rich	Best time to fertilize and overseed
Late Fall	October to November	High Potassium	Prepare turf for winter dormancy

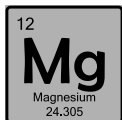
Micronutrients

Sometimes, a lawn that "just won't green up" isn't lacking nitrogen at all, it's missing iron. Lawns also rely on **micronutrients** in small amounts to look its best.



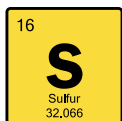
Iron

Deepens green color without pushing growth



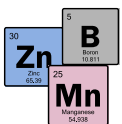
Magnesium

Important for chlorophyll and rich green tone



Sulfur


Helps adjust pH and improves nutrient availability





Others like **zinc, manganese, and boron** play smaller but important roles

When you might need Micronutrients

Identifying when your lawn requires small, vital nutrients.

 Grass looks yellow but you know you've fertilized

 Parts of the lawn look "washed out" compared to others

 pH is too high

A soil test or a professional evaluation is the best way to know if a micronutrient treatment is needed.



SUMMARY: Ready... Set... Grow!

You now have the knowledge to feed your lawn with precision and purpose. Fertilizer is not just plant food. It is a tool, and like any tool, it works best when used at the right time, in the right amount, and for the right reason.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✔ **Get a soil test.** It's the best thing for your lawn.
- ✔ **N-P-K is not a mystery.** Nitrogen fuels growth. Phosphorus builds roots. Potassium strengthens against stress.
- ✔ **Timing is everything.** Spring and fall are your primary feeding windows. Summer is for resting, not forcing growth.
- ✔ **More is not better.** Over-fertilizing burns grass, pollutes waterways, and invites weeds. Follow the label.
- ✔ If it feels like too much to juggle alone, **let Blue Duck handle it.**

When you feed with intention, your grass grows thicker, your roots grow deeper, and your lawn becomes more resilient to everything Indiana throws at it. You are no longer guessing. You are growing with purpose.

Next up...

Fertilizer is your lawn's diet. But the best diet is powerless without the right hydration to make it work. Next up is knowing how to water wisely!



LAWN FERTILIZATION

We do the science and the labor; you get a lush, resilient lawn. Our program includes:

- ✔ Pre-emergent sprays stop weeds before they start.
- ✔ Targeted weed control that stops growth and kills weeds.
- ✔ Slow-release granular fertilization for steady, long-lasting nutrition.
- ✔ Products that are pet and kid-safe when used as directed.

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TESTIMONIALS



BOBBY S.

Excellent Round 6 Lawn Application

Chase did an excellent job again!! He has done so all year long as our lawn technician!! We are looking forward to next year knowing our lawn will continue to make progress thanks to Chase & Blue Duck Lawn Care!!

Indianapolis, IN

10/01/2025



CHAPTER 4

every drop counts

*Watering with purpose,
not guesswork.*



Water smart, grow deep

Building resilience through better hydration

True lawn toughness starts underground. By mastering a few key watering principles, you can transform your lawn from thirsty and dependent to deeply resilient and self-sufficient.

This is especially crucial in Indiana, where summers swing from drought to downpour. True watering wisely here means ditching the habit and following a dynamic strategy. You must time every drop based on your soil's absorption, your grass type, and the real rainfall you receive.

Beat the Heat

Summer in Indiana tests your lawn's limits. Daily watering often does more harm than good. Follow these **golden rules** to help your lawn thrive, not just survive:

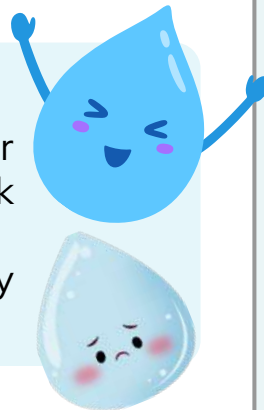


Water Early (4-9 am)

Less evaporation, prevents disease, and lets roots drink before the heat.

Water Deeply & Infrequently

Aim for 1-1.5 inches of total water weekly, split over 2-3 sessions. In peak heat, apply up to 3 inches weekly. Deep watering builds strong roots; daily watering weakens them.



Use this chapter as your blueprint. By the end you'll understand:

- Best watering practices for Indiana's humid summers.
- How rainfall patterns affect watering timing
- Watering guidelines by grass type
- Smart irrigation systems that reduce cost and effort
- Differences between irrigation systems and manual sprinklers
- Drought survival strategies
- The simplest test to see if your lawn truly needs water



'TUNA CAN' TEST

DIY test to measure your sprinkler's exact water output.

- Place 3-5 empty cans on the lawn.
- Run sprinkler for set time (e.g., 20 min).
- Measure water depth in each can.
- Calculate the average depth.

Use this to calculate your precise weekly watering time.





Mow High

Mow at **3.5–4 inches**. In extreme heat, mow higher and less often. Tall grass shades the soil, conserves moisture, and crowds out weeds.

Rainfall Patterns & Irrigation Timing

Learning local patterns prevents watering mistakes and saves money.

Average Monthly Rainfall

Precipitation scorecard for Indianapolis in 2025.

Month	Avg Rainfall (inches)
January	1.17
February	1.52
March	2.78
April	8.02
May	4.42
June	4.22
July	4.30
August	1.31
September	1.77
October	1.97
November	2.83
December	2.39
Total	36.70



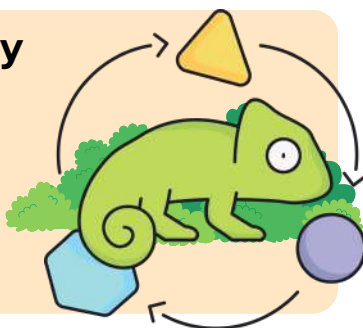
Source: National Weather Service

Adapt Your Watering Weekly

Rainy week → skip watering

Hot week → water more

Extended storms → monitor soil moisture before resuming



Watering Challenges in a Variable Climate

Our climate swings from flood to drought in a matter of days, and your watering strategy must adapt just as quickly.

Heavy Spring Rains → Oversaturation

From April to July, frequent rain often waterlogs clay soil, suffocating roots. Signs include mushy soil, yellowing grass, and patchy thinning. Spring watering is rarely needed.



Hot, Humid Summers → Rapid Evaporation

Summer heat bakes clay soil dry. Watch for afternoon wilting and lingering footprints, signs that rapid evaporation is stressing your lawn. Consistent moisture is key.



Seasonal Trends

Mar–July is typically Indiana's wettest period.

Late summer and Autumn months receive the least rainfall.

The average annual total precipitation for Indianapolis is 43 to 44 inches from 2015 to 2025.



Sudden Thunderstorms → Water Loss

Intense summer rain runs off compacted clay soil too quickly to be absorbed. A heavy downpour does not mean your lawn is well-watered.



Why Rain isn't always enough

Even with Indiana's rain, lawns often miss the deep, consistent moisture they need.

Dry Clay Soil Repels Water

In a heat wave, clay compacts. Light rain then runs off instead of soaking in.

Storms Cause Runoff

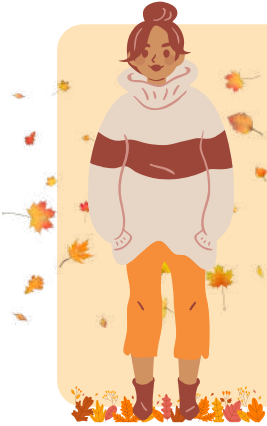
Intense rain runs off. Gentle rain soaks in deep (ideal).

Rainfall timing trumps total inches.

Three inches in one day followed by two dry weeks still leaves your lawn thirsty.

Fall Rebound & Ideal Moisture Levels

September and October offer cool temperatures and steady rain which are the perfect conditions for deep root growth. This makes fall the most productive season for watering.



Winter Dormancy

Once the ground freezes, stop watering. Frozen soil can't absorb water, and dormant grass doesn't need it.



Practical Guide to Watering wisely

- ✓ Track rainfall weekly, not monthly.
- ✓ Use a rain gauge for accurate measurement.
- ✓ Skip watering for 48 hours after a slow, soaking rain.
- ✓ Wait at least 3–4 days after a heavy rain before watering again.
- ✓ Base decisions on soil absorption, not just the rainfall total.



NO, THIS ISN'T ABOUT RAIN...

Blue Duck serves Indianapolis and all of the greater metro areas with expert **pest control, lawn fertilization services, seeding, lawn maintenance, and more!**

CALL US TODAY ☎ (317) 748-3153



Every Drop Counts 49

How Grass Type Changes Watering Needs

Different grasses drink differently. Indiana lawns are usually blends of tall fescue, bluegrass, and ryegrass. To water wisely, you need to understand what each one needs and why.

Tall Fescue

Prized for its deep roots (reaching 8–12 inches), superior heat tolerance, and excellent drought resilience.



It is also the most disease-resistant of the common Indiana turfgrasses, making it a robust, low-maintenance choice.



Water 2-3 times weekly, 1-1.5 inches total.



Kentucky Bluegrass

Lush carpet-like appearance but with a shallow root system (typically 2–3 inches deep).



It is heat-sensitive, goes dormant quickly in drought, and is prone to fungus in Indiana's humid summers.








Water 3 times weekly, 1.5 inches total.

Water Conservation During Droughts

When Indiana summers turn dry, every drop counts. Watering restrictions often follow, but a thirsty lawn doesn't have to be a brown one.

Signs of drought stress

-  **Straw-colored, crunchy grass**
-  **Wilting or folded blades**
-  **Lingering footprints**
-  **Blue-gray tint before browning**
-  **Visible soil cracks**

These symptoms are normal and expected. The lawn is resting to survive.

During a drought, your goal is not a green lawn. Your goal is to protect the roots until cooler weather returns.

How long can dormant grass survive?

Cool-season turf in Indiana can survive:

-  **3-4 weeks with no water.**
-  **6 weeks with minimal moisture** ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water every 10-14 days)

Beyond these limits, permanent root damage can occur, making strategic conservation essential.



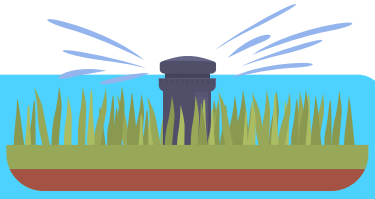
Perennial Ryegrass

Fast-germinating grass, prized for its rapid fill-in.

However, its shallow roots require steady moisture to stay thick and healthy, especially in dry spells.



Water 2-3 times weekly, 1-1.25 inches total.



Choosing the Right Watering System

Watering well needs the right strategy and tools. This guide compares all options, from simple hoses to smart irrigation, detailing the cost, pros, and cons to help you find the perfect fit for your lawn and budget.

Manual Watering: Hose & Sprinkler Basics


For many Indianapolis homes with smaller lots, a full irrigation system is unnecessary. A simple, well-managed hose and sprinkler setup is often the most effective and budget-friendly solution.


Choose hose sprinklers instead of an irrigation system if:


- ✓ Your lawn is small or medium-sized.
- ✓ You don't mind watering manually.
- ✓ Your yard is a simple shape (rectangle/square).
- ✓ You prefer a low-cost, low-maintenance option.


SMART WATER CONSERVATION

Key actions to protect your lawn during a drought:


 **Let Dormant Grass Rest.** Dormancy is the lawn's natural survival mechanism; breaking it wastes water and stresses the grass.

 **Apply Survival Water.** Water only ½ inch every 10-14 days to keep roots alive without stimulating top growth. Use a rain gauge to measure.

 **Mow High and Less Often.** Mow at 4+ inches and less often. Tall grass shades soil, cuts evaporation, and cools roots.

 **Prioritize Trees and Shrubs.** Water trees deeply at their drip line before your lawn. Healthy trees provide shade, cooling the soil.

 **Mulch Landscaping Beds.** Apply 2-3 inches of mulch around plants and trees to retain soil moisture and protect roots.

 **Spot-Water Critical Areas Only.** Spot-water only new sod, seed, high-traffic areas, and dry slopes.

— — — — —
“
You can't manage what you don't measure.
”
— — — — —

Types of Sprinklers Based on Yard Shape

The right sprinkler matches your lawn's shape for efficient, even watering.



Long, narrow lawns

Recommended: **Oscillating or rectangular spray sprinklers.**

They cover long distances efficiently, prevent overspray, and are gentle on new grass.



Wide, open lawns

Recommended: **Rotating rotor sprinklers or pulsating sprinklers.**

They cover large circular areas with consistent distribution, ideal for established turf.



Patchy, segmented lawns

Recommended: **Stationary spot or Adjustable pattern sprinklers**

They target specific zones, perfect for lawns split by walkways, decks, or garden beds.



DIY Irrigation setup

Watch me build a simple, efficient irrigation system for a 1/4 acre lawn.



SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to take you to the Youtube tutorial video.

DIY Irrigation setup

Materials:

- Hose
- Sprinkler based on lawn shape
- Timer attachment (manual or digital)
- Hose splitter (optional)
- Extra hoses for multi-zone DIY setups

Procedure:

- Attach sprinkler to hose.
- Connect hose to a programmable timer.
- Set watering duration & start time.
- Place sprinkler in zone 1 and let it run.
- Move sprinkler to the next zone for subsequent cycles (or use a splitter for simultaneous watering).

PROS

- Budget-friendly.** Costs under \$100.
- Non-invasive.** Requires no digging.
- Portable.** Perfect for renters.
- Easy scheduling.** Simple timer setup.
- Highly effective** for small to medium lawns.

CONS

- Manual effort.** Requires moving and monitoring.
- Physical drawbacks.** Hoses can trip; timers can fail.
- Less efficient.** Lacks precision and automation.



Investing in Smart Watering Technology

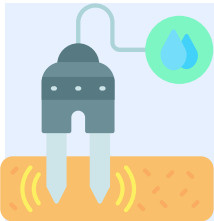
Smart irrigation automates watering, making it cheaper and more efficient by responding to weather and soil. This saves you money and hassle.

How smart irrigation works



Weather-based adjustments

The system automatically adjusts watering based on the season and weather conditions.



Soil Moisture Sensors

Prevents unnecessary watering by sensing if your lawn actually needs water.



Zone-Based Control

Shady zones need less water.
Sunny slopes need more water.
Smart systems customize each zone.

Choose smart irrigation if:

- ✓ Your lawn is large, sloped, or in full sun.
- ✓ You travel often and can't water manually.
- ✓ You prioritize consistent, hands-off results.

Full installation process for Smart Irrigation

Understanding the investment and scope of a professional smart irrigation system requires a look behind the scenes. This overview walks you through the entire installation process, timeline, and final results, so you know exactly what to expect.

Key Benefits of Smart Irrigation

- 👍 **Saves a lot of water.** Reduces water use by 30-50%.
- 👍 **Healthier lawn.** Consistent moisture for stronger roots and healthier grass.
- 👍 **Weather-responsive.** Automatically skips watering during and after rainfall.
- 👍 **Convenient management.** Adjust schedules and monitor usage from your smartphone, anywhere.

Downsides of Smart Irrigation

- 👎 **Lawn disruption.** Installation requires trenching, temporarily disturbing your yard.
- 👎 **Annual maintenance.** Requires professional winterization and backflow testing annually.
- 👎 **Substantial upfront cost.** High initial cost, but long-term savings.



Installing a smart irrigation system typically costs **\$5,000 to \$10,000+**, depending on lawn size, zones, & controller options.

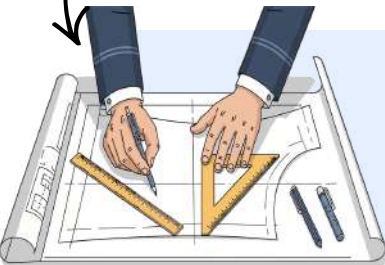
Property Evaluation

A technician evaluates your property's size, sun exposure, slope, soil, and water pressure to create a custom system design.



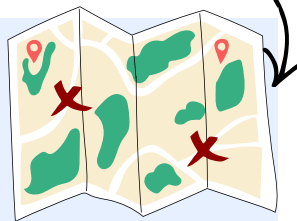
System Design

A detailed blueprint maps pipe routes, sprinkler placement, and watering zones.



Marking & Utility Check

The layout is flagged and all underground utilities are located.



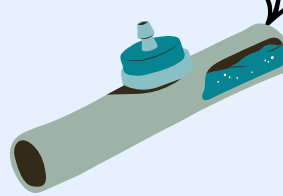
Trenching & Pipe Installation

Narrow trenches are dug for pipes and valves (temporarily disrupts the lawn).



Head & Drip Line Installation

Appropriate sprinkler heads and drip lines are installed and leveled.



Backflow Installation

A device to protect drinking water is installed by a certified technician. Required by Indiana Code.



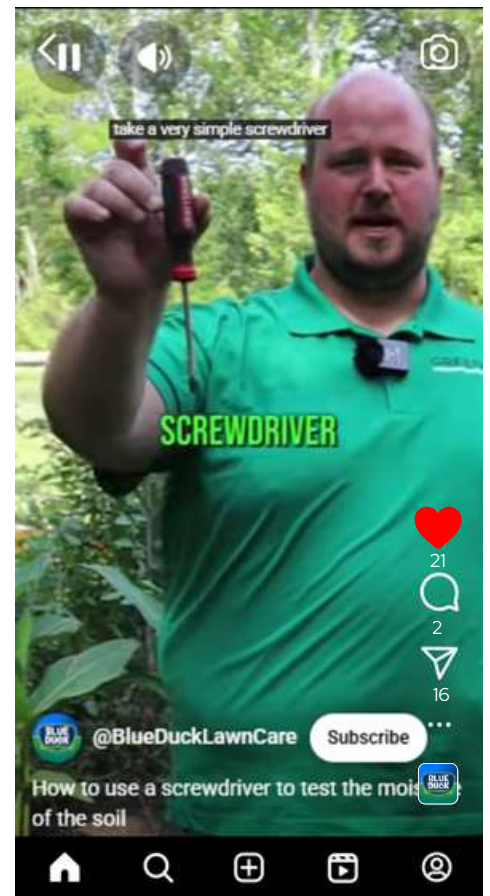
How to Check If Your Lawn Is Thirsty

Don't water by looks alone. Visual cues are often misleading. Grass can look dry with wet soil, or green with dry roots, especially in Indiana's clay soil.

Overwatering, caused by this guesswork, is a leading cause of lawn disease here.

The easiest way to avoid guesswork?

A simple screwdriver.



SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to take you to the Youtube tutorial video of the Screwdriver Test



Smart Controller Setup

The system's "brain" is connected to WiFi and programmed for automatic schedules and adjustments.



Cleanup, Calibration & Training

Trenches are filled, system is calibrated for even coverage, and homeowner is trained on its use.



SUMMARY: Make it count

Watering your Indiana lawn isn't about sticking to a schedule; it's about intelligent strategy.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ Water deeply and infrequently, not daily, to build a resilient lawn.
- ✓ Use the screwdriver test—it's the simplest way to know when to water.
- ✓ Adapt your watering schedule to Indiana's weather, not a calendar.
- ✓ Choose a watering system that fits your lawn's size and your lifestyle.
- ✓ During a drought, your goal is to protect the roots, not to maintain green color.

Next up...

You've mastered feeding and watering. Now, let's talk about the finishing touch: the perfect cut. Next, we dive into Mowing for Strength & Health.

The Screwdriver Test

This test is one of Blue Duck's favorite tools because it:

- ✓ Only requires a screwdriver.
- ✓ Takes 5 seconds.
- ✓ Works in all soil types.
- ✓ More accurate than a visual check.

For full instructions on performing the screwdriver test, see page 26.

Result interpretation

- 👍 **Slides easily (4-6 inches):**
Soil is adequately moist. Do not water.
- 👎 **Resists at 2-3 inches:**
Soil is borderline dry. Water within 24 hours.
- ✗ **Hard to push (0-2 inches):**
Soil is dry. Water today to relieve stress.

Why This Test Works

The screwdriver reveals moisture in the **root zone**, not just at the misleading surface. This is critical for Indiana's clay soil, which often dries and cracks on top while holding water below. The screwdriver gives you the truth from below.

Using it weekly can save thousands of gallons of water per year.



CHAPTER 5

the perfect cut

A Masterclass in Lawn Mowing



More than just a trim

Building a healthier, thicker Indiana lawn

Mowing isn't just maintenance; it's a conversation with your grass. Every pass of the mower sends a signal: to grow thicker or grow weaker, to sink deep roots or stay shallow, to welcome weeds or crowd them out.

For decades, we've focused on feeding and watering the lawn, while treating the cut as an afterthought, a chore to finish so the yard looks tidy. But in Indiana, where heat, humidity, and clay soil work against cool-season grasses, that chore is **your secret weapon**.

Ideal Mower Height by Grass Type

Think of mower height as a prescription for lawn health, not just a preference. Each type of grass in your Indiana lawn has an ideal height range where it grows strongest, resists stress, and naturally crowds out weeds.

So, yes, I know you want a golf course lawn. While it is technically possible, it demands a level of investment and maintenance that's unrealistic for most homeowners.



 **3.5-4.25"**

 **Below 3"**

Tall Fescue

Its deep roots provide drought and heat tolerance. Mowing high amplifies this by shading soil, retaining moisture, and suppressing weeds.




- This chapter is not a mowing schedule. It's an owner's manual for grass itself. By the end you'll learn:
- ✓ The ideal mowing height for each Indiana grass type.
 - ✓ How to adjust your mowing frequency with the seasons.
 - ✓ The science behind professional lawn striping.
 - ✓ Why blade sharpness is non-negotiable for lawn health.
 - ✓ The common mowing mistakes that damage your turf.


Cool-season Indiana grasses thrive when kept tall, not short.

“
A lawn is grown by the season, but maintained by the mow.
”






 **2.75-3.5"**


 **Below 2.5"**

Kentucky Bluegrass

Spreads via rhizomes but has shallow, heat-sensitive roots. Cutting too short leads to browning, higher disease risk, and drought stress.



 **2.75-3.5"**

 **Below 2.5"**

Perennial Ryegrass

Fast-growing with good recovery from wear, but prone to drying out quickly. Maintain taller cut to preserve crucial soil moisture.


Seasonal Mowing Schedules


Your lawn's growth rate changes with Indiana's seasons. Sticking to a rigid weekly schedule can stress the grass. This guide shows you how to adapt your mowing frequency to each season's natural rhythm for optimal health and effortless maintenance.

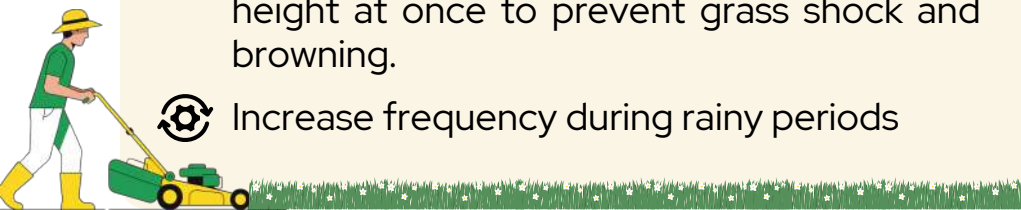
Spring (April-June)

Peak growing season with lush grass.

 **Mow every 5-7 days.**

 Never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade height at once to prevent grass shock and browning.

 Increase frequency during rainy periods

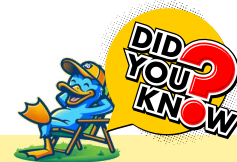


WHY HEIGHT MATTERS

Taller grass blades enable more photosynthesis. This fuels deeper root growth, leading to a more drought-resistant, weed-suppressing, and resilient lawn.



Raise your mower deck to the highest setting during hot, dry periods.



Grass "Screams" When Cut

A wounded blade releases chemical signals (green leaf volatiles) that warn nearby plants and attract beneficial insects—a primitive form of plant communication.

Summer (July–August)



Heat slows growth, often causing dormancy.

- ✓ **Mow only every 7–14 days, as needed.**
- ✓ **Raise mower height to its highest setting.**
- ⚠ **Skip mowing in a drought unless essential; cutting dormant grass can damage it.**



Early Fall (September–October)

Cooler temperatures spark growth spurt.

- ✓ **Return to mowing every 5–7 days.**
- 🎯 **The ideal time to thicken your lawn by overseeding.**



Late Fall (September–October)

Prepare your lawn for winter by gradually lowering the mowing height over your last few cuts.

- ✓ **Your final seasonal cut should be 2.5–3 inches tall to prevent snow mold.**



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT...

No one dreams of a thin, brown lawn. If you have bare spots you want covered with lush grass fast, Blue Duck's professional **overseeding and slice seeding services** are your solution.

CALL US TODAY ☎ (317) 748-3153



BLADE CARE 101

The difference between a good cut and a great one is in the details. Professional-looking lawns always start with blade maintenance and finish with crisp detailing.

- **Sharpen blades every 20–25 hours.** Typically 2–4 times per season.
- **Replace blades once per year,** especially if lawn has debris like sticks or rocks.
- **Never mow wet grass.** Grass tears, causing clumps, ruts, and disease.

Signs blades are dull:

- ⚠ Grass tips look white or brown.
- ⚠ Lawn appears uneven or "fuzzy."
- ⚠ You need multiple passes for a clean cut.

Edging & Professional Finishing Touches

These final steps transform a simple cut into a polished landscape.

- Edge all sidewalks, driveways, and beds.
- Blow clippings off hard surfaces.
- Trim around trees, fences, and obstacles.
- Follow the yard's natural curves with your cut.



Lawn Striping Patterns and Techniques

Lawn stripes are not painted on. They are an optical illusion created by bending grass blades in opposite directions. The bent blades reflect sunlight differently, producing the clean "light-dark" effect seen on professional turf.

Three Popular Striping Patterns



Straight Stripes (Beginners)

Mow your first line perfectly straight using a landmark (like a sidewalk or fence). Follow this line back and forth across the lawn.

Best For: Rectangular or square yards.



Checkerboard Pattern

First, mow straight stripes in one direction (north-south). Then, mow perpendicular stripes over them (east-west).



Diagonal Stripes

Create stripes at a consistent 45-degree angle across your lawn.

Best For: Front yards and open spaces. This pattern is highly attractive and excellent at disguising minor uneven terrain.



HOW STRIPING WORKS

Blades bent away from you reflect more light, creating a lighter stripe.

Blades bent toward you reflect less light, creating a darker stripe.

A striping roller or kit ensures this bend is consistent and uniform.

Tools That Improve Striping



Striping roller



Higher mower height



Sharp blades



Alternate your stripe direction every mowing session to prevent rutting and ensure even growth.



The Big Mower on a Small Hill Mistake

Zero-turn mowers are powerful, but not universal. Using an oversized mower on slopes or uneven ground can damage your turf and pose a safety risk. This is why professional crews use different mowers for different terrains.

Risks of Using a Mower That's Too Big

Scalping

Large, rigid decks dip into low spots, cutting grass too short and creating permanent brown patches.



Soil Compaction

Mowers weighing 600–1,200 lbs compress clay soil, crushing root systems and reducing vital oxygen.



Safety Hazards

Zero-turn mowers risk rollovers on slopes or wet grass, especially for untrained users.



Ragged Cuts

Heavy decks bounce over uneven terrain, tearing grass blades instead of delivering a clean slice.



GET FREE INSTANT ESTIMATE

As easy as entering your address!

Enter your home address



Safe and secure, visit www.blueducklawncare.com

LAWN STRIPING:

DIY OR PRO?

Striping is an art. While homeowners can achieve good results, professional crews achieve consistent, dramatic, high-contrast striping because of their equipment and experience.

DIY Advantages

- ✓ Fun for lawn enthusiasts
- ✓ Affordable striping kits available
- ✓ Works well on flat, rectangular lawns

PRO Advantages

- ✓ Heavy-duty equipment
- ✓ Perfect consistency
- ✓ Saves time and labor
- ✓ Expert pattern execution

When to Choose a Walk-Behind Mower

Opt for a lighter walk-behind mower if your lawn has:

- ⚠ Slopes or hills
- ⚠ Soft, wet, or soggy soil
- ⚠ Tight spaces, narrow gates, or intricate landscaping

A walk-behind's floating deck provides a safer, smoother, and more even cut on challenging terrain.



SUMMARY: As the blade goes, so goes the lawn

The perfect cut is not about making the lawn shorter. It is about making it stronger. By mowing with intention, you build a dense, resilient turf that naturally resists weeds, drought, and disease.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ **Mow high and sharp.** Taller grass builds deeper roots, shades soil, and resists stress.
- ✓ **Follow the "One-Third Rule".** Never cut more than one-third of the grass blade at once to avoid shock and browning.
- ✓ **Sync your schedule with the seasons.** Mow often in spring and fall, but slow down or stop in summer heat and winter.
- ✓ **Sharp blades are non-negotiable.** A dull mower tears grass, causing disease and a brown, fuzzy lawn.
- ✓ **Choose the right mower for the job.** A large zero-turn can scalp and compact soil on slopes; a walk-behind is often safer and better.
- ✓ **Stripes are an art of light, made by bending blades.** Great results are possible DIY, but professionals deliver flawless, complex patterns consistently.


Next up...

You've mastered the outward care. Now, let's heal from within. Next, we dive into Aeration & Overseeding: The Core of Lawn Restoration.



HAPPY LAWN PRO

This package combines every essential treatment into a single, powerful plan for your healthiest, most resilient lawn.

- ✓ **Complete lawn analysis**
- ✓ **Service warranty**
- ✓ **6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan**
- ✓ **Pre-Emergent Grub Control**
- ✓ **1 Free Surface Pest Treatments**
- ✓ **Mechanical aeration and overseeding**
-  **Liquid aeration and Spring soil conditioning**

CALL US TODAY
📞 (317) 748-3153

WWW.BLUEDUCKLAWNCARE.COM



ANDREW S.

**Awesome people
great service and
great outcome**

Our lawn stands out in our neighborhood and I couldn't be happier with them.

Noblesville, IN

08/06/2023



CHAPTER 6

the hole truth



The Science Beneath Your Lawn

At the heart of it all

Giving your lawn a room to breathe

What if the most powerful thing you could do for your lawn involved making it look worse, not better?

For a few weeks, that is. This is the beautiful, counterintuitive secret at the heart of every great lawn. It doesn't come from a bottle or a bag. It comes from creating space, and then filling it with promise.

This chapter isn't about a quick green-up. It's about a fundamental reset. We're moving beyond surface-level care to the foundational practices that repair, renew, and rewire your lawn from the soil up: **aeration and overseeding.**

We'll strip away the mystery and reveal the simple magic: why punching thousands of holes in your precious turf is an act of profound care, and why scattering seeds over those holes is the single best investment you can make in your lawn's future. This is the process that turns thin, tired grass into a thick, resilient carpet. Welcome to **The Hole Truth.**

What Indiana Lawns Need Year-Round

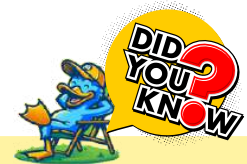
Indiana lawns face a relentless cycle of seasonal stress, amplified by clay soil, which leads to compaction and thin turf. This makes consistent, seasonal maintenance non-negotiable.

Core aeration acts as a vital "reset," removing soil barriers and creating the conditions for thick, healthy grass to thrive.



This chapter is more than a renovation guide. It's a manual for your lawn's future. By the end, you'll learn:

- ✓ *Why clay soil compacts so easily*
- ✓ *How to identify soil that needs aeration*
- ✓ *Why Fall is Indiana's ONLY right time to Overseed*
- ✓ *How Pro Aeration Works & Why Rentals Fall Short*
- ✓ *Topdressing & Compost for Long-Term Soil Health*
- ✓ *What grass types perform best in our climate*
- ✓ *How to Prepare for Aeration & Maximize Seed Germination*



Aeration Doubles Root Growth.

Research proves core aeration can double root mass in the following season by removing soil barriers and boosting oxygen to roots.

Why Clay Soil Compacts So Easily

Indiana's clay soil is a master of holding water and nutrients, but this strength is also its greatest weakness. Its microscopic, plate-like particles pack together tightly under pressure, squeezing out the air and space that roots need to thrive.



Compaction happens faster when:

- ⚠️ **Soil is wet**
- ⚠️ **Mowers follow same paths**
- ⚠️ **Kids & pets play frequently**
- ⚠️ **Foot traffic along walkways**
- ⚠️ **Lawns are cut too short**
- ⚠️ **Cars park on the lawn**



Once compacted, clay can block:

- 🚫 **Water penetration**
- 🚫 **Air**
- 🚫 **Nutrient movement**
- 🚫 **Root expansion**

This is why aeration is essential every year in Indiana because it's the only way to actively reverse compaction's damage, allowing air, water, and roots to thrive again.



Aeration is the process of poking small holes in your soil to allow air, water, and nutrients to reach grass roots. Think of it like loosening tight shoes—once there's room to breathe, everything works better.

Core Benefits of Aeration

- ✅ Opens pathways for oxygen
- ✅ Breaks up compacted clay
- ✅ Boosts root growth
- ✅ Builds drought resistance.
- ✅ Enhances fertilizer effectiveness
- ✅ Creates seed-to-soil contact
- ✅ Helps lawns recover from summer stress

Un-Aerated lawn becomes:

- 🚫 Hard like concrete
- 🚫 Difficult to water
- 🚫 Susceptible to weeds
- 🚫 Prone to heat stress

When to Aerate and Overseed

Cool-season grasses like Tall Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass have specific biological rhythms that dictate root growth and seed germination. Hitting the right window is the difference between a full renovation and a failed effort.

Why you should not aerate & seed in Spring

Spring creates an unwinnable conflict between establishing new grass and preventing weeds. The essential crabgrass pre-emergent herbicide will also stop grass seed from germinating, forcing you to choose between a weedy lawn or a failed seeding. Furthermore, spring's wet soil risks worsening compaction during aeration, and young grass seedlings rarely mature enough to survive the coming summer heat.

Why Fall is perfect for aerating & seeding

Fall offers a rare and perfect harmony of conditions for lawn renewal. Fall offers:

- ✓ Warm soil
- ✓ Cool air
- ✓ Predictable rainfall
- ✓ Weed pressure is naturally lowest in fall
- ✓ Ideal seed germination temperatures

Fall triggers aggressive root growth. This gives new grass two full growing seasons (fall and spring) to establish a deep, robust root system before facing its first stressful summer.



Overseeding is the process of spreading new grass seed over an existing lawn.

Core Benefits of Overseeding

- ✓ Thicken thin or bare areas
- ✓ Improve the lawn's density and color
- ✓ Introduce newer, more resilient grass varieties
- ✓ Boosts lawn's overall health and resistance to weeds, disease, and drought

It is a key lawn renovation practice, especially when paired with core aeration, which creates the ideal seedbed for germination.

Aeration & Seeding by Season

Spring:

✗ NO aeration & overseeding

Summer:

✗ Let lawn rest. NO aeration & overseeding

Fall: BEST TIME for...

- ✓ Core aeration & overseeding
- ✓ Compost topdressing
- ✓ Soil repairs

Tools, Rentals, & DIY Aeration

There is a big difference between possible and practical. You can technically aerate your lawn with any tool that reaches the soil. But not all tools penetrate clay. Not all tools create meaningful aeration. And not all tools are safe for your property.

Manual Tools (Step Core Aerator)

This tool is best for small spots and narrow path repairs, but is extremely exhausting.



Walk-Behind Gas Aerators

This tool works okay in sandy soil but has poor clay penetration and is difficult to transport.



Spike Aerators

Do NOT use this tool. It pushes soil sideways, increasing compaction, and should be avoided on Indiana lawns.



Ride-On Hydraulic Aerators

This is the best choice for all Indiana lawns, offering the deepest penetration for fast, efficient, and consistent results, plus excellent seed-to-soil contact after overseeding.



Practical Ways to Reduce Compaction

Soil compaction does not happen all at once. It builds gradually from repeated pressure on the soil surface. Even after aeration, it can quickly return without proper care. Preventing compaction year-round is as crucial as fixing it.

- ✓ **Stay off soggy lawns.** Wet soil compresses instantly. Wait until the ground firms up after rain before any mowing, walking, or equipment use.
- ✓ **Change your mowing pattern weekly.** This prevents creating compacted tracks and to spread pressure evenly for healthier soil and roots.
- ✓ **Add compost annually.** This improves soil structure, boost microbes, and help clay soil resist compaction.
- ✓ **Skip heavy mowers on soft ground.** Their weight and turns damage soil. Use lighter gear or wait for firmer conditions.
- ✓ **Mulch leaves in place.** They decompose into organic matter that improves soil structure and helps prevent compaction.
- ✓ **Proper mowing height.** Taller grass develops deeper roots that stabilize soil and resist compaction, while also shading the ground and supporting healthy soil life.

The Blue Duck Aeration Advantage

Aeration, while a simple concept, requires precise equipment, expert technique, and perfect timing to deliver transformative results. This isn't about just punching holes; it's about strategically engineering your lawn's recovery.

Why Blue Duck Aerates Better

Professional results come from professional execution. While rental aerators skim the surface, our commercial-grade process is engineered to solve the root cause of your lawn's problems.

LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Blue Duck uses professional, hydraulically driven aerators designed to penetrate Indiana's dense clay soils. These machines are significantly heavier and more powerful than rental units, allowing them to consistently pull deep, full soil cores rather than shallow surface plugs.

Blue Duck aeration = Commercial-grade performance

Blue Duck Uses Ride-On Hydraulic Aerators



👍 **Deep, consistent 2-3 inch cores**

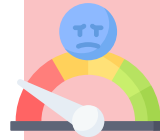
👍 **Excellent maneuverability**

👍 **Faster, more efficient machine.**

👍 **Precision plug spacing for uniform results.**

Why Rental Aerators Often Fail

Renting a core aerator seems like a cost-effective solution, but the reality often leads to frustration and underwhelming results. The reasons are:



Underpowered for Clay: Machines are too lightweight for Indiana's dense clay soil.



Poor Performance: They bounce over the surface instead of penetrating, extracting shallow, ineffective plugs (1/2-1 inch deep).



Steep Learning Curve: Difficult for beginners to operate evenly.



Physical Burden: Heavy (~400 lbs), hard to transport, and physically taxing to maneuver.

Rental Customers often say:



ANONYMOUS

Renting a machine beats me more than it beats the lawn!!! 😞😞





Proper Weight and Down Pressure Matter

Consistency is critical. Uneven aeration leads to uneven results. Blue Duck's equipment applies steady down pressure, ensuring uniform penetration across the entire lawn, including high-traffic and problem areas.

Deeper, uniform cores mean:

- ✓ Better oxygen movement into the root zone
- ✓ Improved water infiltration
- ✓ Real space for roots to expand

Which produces real results:

- ✓ Increased porosity
- ✓ Deeper roots
- ✓ Better seed incorporation

Experience Makes the Difference

Professional aeration is not just about running a machine. Blue Duck technicians understand:

- ✓ How to adjust depth and spacing
- ✓ How to avoid sprinkler and utility damage
- ✓ How to focus on compacted zones without overworking the lawn

EXPERTLY TIMED

Aeration is strategically scheduled, not random. We perform it during optimal soil moisture, when the ground is soft enough for deep core extraction but firm enough to avoid ruts. This precise timing, guided by our pre-watering instructions, ensures every pass delivers maximum impact.



Aeration for Lasting Lawn Health

Because Blue Duck aerates correctly, the benefits last longer.

- ✓ Improves fertilizer efficiency
- ✓ Enhances overseeding success
- ✓ Encourages deeper root systems
- ✓ Helps lawns recover faster from heat and drought

Homeowners who see "no change" after aeration by themselves usually had a shallow, ineffective job. **Let Blue Duck handle it**, and the difference will be noticeable.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT...

A tired lawn needs a fresh start. Aeration is the crucial process that allows air, water, and nutrients to reach grass roots, reviving your turf from the ground up. Let us handle this essential, time-intensive task for you.

CALL US TODAY 📞 (317) 748-3153



Aeration & Overseeding Prep Checklist

Proper preparation before aeration and overseeding plays a major role in how successful the process will be.

Essential Fall Preparations



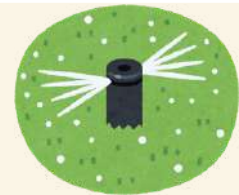
Mow lawn short (2.5 inches)

Lower mowing height before seeding to improve seed-to-soil contact and light penetration.



Mark sprinkler heads with flags

This prevents accidental damage during aeration and seeding.



Water 24–48 hrs before aeration

Moist soil allows for deeper, cleaner plugs.. Avoid overwatering.



Choose Turf-Type Tall Fescue seed

Use high-quality Tall Fescue seed for strong roots and drought resistance.



Rake leaves before seeding

Clear leaves before seeding. Debris blocks sunlight and prevents proper seed-to-soil contact.



Avoid foot traffic after seeding

Limit traffic after seeding to protect new seed and prevent re-compaction.

What Grass Seed to Choose

The type of seed you choose directly affects how well your lawn handles real-world conditions.

Turf-Type Tall Fescue

- ✓ Deep, drought-resistant roots
- ✓ Disease-tolerant
- ✓ Thick, dark green turf
- ✓ Ideal for Indiana clay soil

Kentucky Bluegrass

- ✓ Beautiful color, spreads via rhizomes
- ✓ Often blended with fescue for durability
- ⚠ Slow germination, heat-sensitive

Kentucky Bluegrass

- ✓ Very fast germination
- ✓ Good for quick patch repair
- ✓ Best used in blends, not alone
- ⚠ Not drought-resistant

“
**Aeration is to lawns
what deep
breathing is to
stress.**
”

SUMMARY: Punching holes, spreading hope

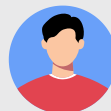
Aeration and overseeding are not optional services for Indiana lawns. They are the essential reset button, breaking the cycle of compaction and thin turf to build a thicker, more resilient lawn from the soil up.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ **Compaction is the silent enemy.** Clay soil hardens like concrete, choking your lawn from below.
- ✓ **Fall is your only true window.** Fall's perfect balance of warm soil and cool air is essential for success.
- ✓ **Not all aeration is equal.** Deep, professional core aeration is a lawn renovation. Shallow DIY methods are often a waste of effort.
- ✓ **Let Blue Duck handle it.** Our commercial equipment, expert timing, and precise execution ensure deep aeration and perfect overseeding that DIY rentals can't match.
- ✓ **Seed quality is critical.** Choose high-quality Turf-Type Tall Fescue for deep roots and drought resistance that thrives in our climate.
- ✓ **Prevention is ongoing.** Protect your investment year-round by staying off wet grass, rotating mowing patterns, and adding compost.

Next up...

You've learned to heal the foundation. Now, let's protect the investment. Next, we dive into how to protect your lawn from weeds and pests!



MICHAEL T.

Matt aerated and over seeded our lawn today. Was pleasantly surprised when we came home and it wasn't a mess. Walkways and driveway was clean. No mud or seed on either. Have had other companies perform same task and spent too much time cleaning up after them. THANK YOU MATT!!!!

Indianapolis, IN

08/28/2025



MADHUMITA S.

Our lawn has been doing great and flourishing since we've had it treated by Blue Duck. We have had 2 treatments so far - our dandelions have almost disappeared and our lawn looks very healthy. The technician has done a great job! I also appreciate the feedback and tips we get after every application!

Indianapolis, IN

08/28/2025



CHAPTER 7

uninvited guests

The Ecology of Lawn Problems



Diagnose. Defend. Restore.

Building a Lawn That Protects Itself

Think of your lawn not as a plot of grass, but as a kingdom. You are its steward. The thick, green turf is your peaceful populace. Weeds are not random invaders; they are the rebellious factions that rise when the kingdom is poorly managed. While, pests are the opportunistic raiders that attack when the walls are weak.

This chapter is your treatise on wise rule. We will move from putting down rebellions with brute force (sprays) to studying the scrolls of cause and effect. You will learn the art of governance: how to nourish your citizenry (grass), fortify your walls (soil health), and create a kingdom so robust that rebellions simply cannot take root.

Weed Identification & Control in Indiana

To win the battle against weeds, you must first know your enemy. This section focuses on the most common and troublesome weeds in Indiana lawns, teaching you to identify them by their appearance, and providing targeted strategies.

Why Weeds Take Root & How to Stop Them

Weeds are symptoms, not just problems. They are nature's response to bare, stressed, or imbalanced soil. This imbalance could be from low nutrients, poor drainage, or improper mowing. Weeds outcompete grass by germinating faster, growing aggressively, and reproducing prolifically. Once established, they can choke out your turf if the underlying cause is not corrected.



This chapter provides the security protocol. By the end, you'll learn:

- ✓ How to identify Indiana's most common weeds
- ✓ How to recognize grub damage before it's too late
- ✓ How to control moles, voles, and other wildlife
- ✓ How to prevent and treat fungal lawn diseases
- ✓ How to use seasonal calendar to stay ahead of problems
- ✓ When DIY is safe, and when to call Blue Duck.



Always identify the weed before applying any product.

Spraying the wrong type can damage your turf and waste time and money.



The gardener's most useful tool is not the sprayer, but the observation.



The best weed strategy involves:

- ✓ Preventing open soil and weak turf
- ✓ Targeting weeds early in their growth cycle
- ✓ Matching the product to the plant type
- ✓ Maintaining consistent cultural practices

In short, weeds thrive where grass struggles so growing thicker, healthier turf is your #1 defense.

Broadleaf vs. Grassy Weeds

Not all weeds are created equal. They fall into two distinct botanical categories, and knowing the difference is the first step to effective control.



Broadleaf Weeds



Identified by their wider leaves, visible central veins, and tendency to flower and grow in clusters or rosettes.



Dandelion



Clover



Chickweed



Oxalis



Ground Ivy



Thistle



Wild Violet



Henbit



Most broadleaf weeds are effectively managed with selective herbicides containing ingredients like 2,4-D, Triclopyr, or Dicamba.

Best Practices for Weed Control

To stay ahead of all common Indiana weeds, follow this proven **three-part core system**:

✓ **Preventative Strategy**

The most effective weed control happens before you ever see a weed.



Apply pre-emergent herbicide in spring (March–April).



Overseed in fall to crowd out future invaders.

✓ **Correct Identification**



Know the difference between grassy and broadleaf weeds.



Target with the correct herbicide for each species.

✓ **Cultural Practices**

The strongest weed control comes from your lawn care routine.



Mow tall and often.



Fertilize based on a soil test.



Water deeply and infrequently.



Aerate compacted soil annually.





Grassy Weeds

These are masters of disguise, mimicking turfgrass so well they blend in until they mature and begin to crowd out your lawn, making them particularly challenging to identify and control.



Crabgrass



Foxtail



Yellow Nutsedge



Goosegrass



Nimblewill



Quackgrass



Pre-emergent herbicides, such as Proflam or Dithiopyr, are applied to the soil to prevent grassy weed seeds from germinating.



Post-emergent herbicides, such as Quinclorac, are required to eliminate grassy weeds that have already sprouted.



Specialized sedge herbicides, such as Halosulfuron-methyl or Sulfentrazone, for effective elimination of Yellow nutsedge.



Always identify the weed first.

Applying the wrong herbicide can damage your lawn and waste time and money.

Best Practices for Lawn Disease Prevention

A healthy turf outgrows most fungal threats. Follow these practices to keep lawn healthy:



Water only in the early morning

Allows grass to dry during the day, preventing fungal growth.



Mow with discipline

Maintain sharp blades and keep mowing height appropriate.



Aerate annually

To reduce soil compaction and boost lawn health.



Follow fertilization schedule

Strengthens turf naturally against disease and stress.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of fungicide.



Top 10 Weeds in Indiana

Know your enemy. Every region has its usual suspects. This list covers the ten most common and troublesome weeds in Indiana lawns, complete with identification tips, why they thrive here, and the best strategies for control.



Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis* / *Digitaria ischaemum*)

Crabgrass is a grassy weed. It is a low-growing, wide-bladed summer annual that germinates in late April to early May when soil temperatures reach 55°F and spreads aggressively in the heat, quickly smothering thin turf all summer.

Thrives in: Thin turf, scalped areas, dry/compacted soil, and hot zones like driveway edges.

Treatment

Spring Pre-emergent (April):

Apply Proflam or Dithiopyr before soil hits 55°F

Summer Post-emergent:

Use Quinclorac on young crabgrass. Often impossible to kill when mature.

Identification



- 🔍 Light, bright green color
- 🔍 Wide, coarse, flat blades
- 🔍 Grows in a star-shaped/wheel-like
- 🔍 Grows low and outward before sending up seed heads.
- 🔍 Seed heads resemble small fingers or spikes at the stem tip



- ✓ Mow high (3.5–4")
- ✓ Fertilize consistently
- ✓ Avoid scalping edges

Don't wait until summer!
Prevention is 10x more effective than cure.



Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Dandelions grow a deep taproot and spread through air-borne seeds. Each puffball can release hundreds of seeds.

A low, ground-hugging growth habit, forming a flat rosette of leaves directly at the soil level. They do not grow upright like grass. This allows them to avoid mower blades and dominate thin turf. Returns every year unless the entire taproot is removed.

Thrives in: Under-fertilized or thin lawns, high sun, and compacted soil.

Treatment

Post-emergent (Fall is Best):
2,4-D, Dicamba, or MCPP.

Fall applications work best because the plant is pulling nutrients and herbicides into its roots.

Fairly easy to control at anytime of the season

Identification



- 🔍 Bright yellow flowers
- 🔍 Deep, thick taproot
- 🔍 Jagged, toothed leaves forming a rosette
- 🔍 Seeds spread via white "puffball"



- ✓ Fertilize to thicken turf
- ✓ Spot treat in spring
- ✓ Remove full taproot manually



White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

White Clover is a low-growing perennial broadleaf weed that forms dense mats with distinctive three-leaf clusters and white, globe-shaped flowers. It thrives in low-nitrogen soil, indicating a lawn that needs fertilization.

White Clover grows as a low, creeping mat, spreading via above-ground stems (stolons) that root at the nodes, allowing it to form dense patches that choke out grass.

Thrives in: Low-nitrogen soil, under-fertilized lawns, high-traffic areas, and drought-stressed turf.

Treatment

Post-emergent:

Triclopyr or Fluroxypyr

Improve nitrogen levels (clover doesn't like well-fed lawns)

Identification



- 🔍 White pom-pom flowers
- 🔍 3-leaf grouping with pale white "crescent" marks
- 🔍 Spreads through stolons (above-ground runners)



- ✓ Apply slow-release nitrogen 4-6x per year
- ✓ Avoid mowing too short

If clover appears, it's a nutrition issue. Consistent fertilizing eliminates most clovers naturally.



Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*)

A perennial weed that thrives in compacted, poorly maintained lawns. It grows low to the ground, survives mowing, and often indicates neglected soil.

Broadleaf Plantain grows in a flat, ground-hugging rosette with all leaves emerging from a central crown at soil level. It sends up tall, slender flower spikes on leafless stalks.

Thrives in: Hard, compacted, or moist soils, high-traffic areas, and neglected lawns.

Treatment

Post-emergent:

2,4-D or Triclopyr are highly effective

Timing: Treat in spring or early fall when the plant is actively growing

Identification



- 🔍 Grows in a flat rosette shape
- 🔍 Wide, rounded leaves with deep parallel veins
- 🔍 Produces tall seed spikes in the center
- 🔍 Leaves feel waxy or rubbery to the touch



- ✓ **Aerate compacted areas in fall**
- ✓ **Reduce foot traffic or add stepping stones**
- ✓ **Fertilize to boost turf density**

If plantain is present, it's a sign your soil needs aeration ASAP.



Yellow Nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*)

Yellow nutsedge is not a grass but a sedge, which makes it harder to control. It grows much faster than turf and forms underground nutlets that survive for years.

It grows in upright, grass-like clumps that are noticeably taller, thicker, and stiffer than surrounding turfgrass, often emerging faster after mowing.

Thrives in: Overwatered lawns, areas with poor drainage, low wet spots, and edges near downspouts.

Treatment

Specialty Herbicides Only:

Halosulfuron (SedgeHammer) or
Sulfentrazone (Dismiss)

Repeat applications may be necessary

Identification



- 🔍 Bright, shiny yellow-green color
- 🔍 V-shaped leaves
- 🔍 Triangular stem (roll between fingers - feels like a triangle)
- 🔍 Grows faster than your grass in hot, wet summer weather



- ✅ **Improve drainage (regrade or install French drains)**
- ✅ **Avoid overwatering**
- ✅ **Mow tall to shade sedge and reduce spread**

Regular weed killers won't work. Nutsedge is tough. Treat it like a separate species.



Foxtail (*Setaria spp.*)

An annual grassy weed identified by its bushy, cylindrical, foxtail-like seed head. It germinates in warm soil and thrives in thin, disturbed turf, often found along driveways and garden edges.

Foxtail germinates in late spring and grows as an upright, clumping grass. It does not spread along the ground but forms distinct, vertical tufts.

Thrives in: Bare patches, newly seeded lawns, disturbed soil, and compacted edges like sidewalks and driveways.

Treatment

Spring Pre-emergent:
Dithiopyr or Pendimethalin

Post-emergent:
Quinclorac (limited effectiveness on mature plants)

Identification



- 🔍 Coarse, upright grass
- 🔍 Fuzzy, bottlebrush-like seed heads
- 🔍 Light green, broad blades
- 🔍 Often taller than surrounding grass



- ✓ Overseeding bare spots in fall prevents germination
- ✓ Mow high to encourage thick turf canopy
- ✓ Mulch edges of sidewalks or add edging where foxtail recurs

Timing is everything. Apply pre-emergents before late April and overseed in fall to win the battle.



Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

A low-growing, mat-forming annual broadleaf weed with small, oval leaves and tiny white flowers, often appearing in early spring and fall.

Chickweed forms a low, sprawling mat, spreading across the soil surface with weak, branching stems that root at the nodes. It creates a dense, green carpet that smothers underlying grass.

Thrives in: Shaded, moist areas under trees or structures, overwatered lawns, poor drainage zones, and neglected, compacted corners.

Treatment

Post-emergent:

2,4-D or Dicamba in spring or fall

Improve airflow and reduce shade if possible

Identification



- 🔍 Tiny, white, star-shaped flowers
- 🔍 Small, oval, opposite leaves
- 🔍 Forms dense groundcover
- 🔍 Grows low and quickly creeps outward



- ✓ **Adjust watering schedule. Only 1-2x per week**
- ✓ **Thin tree canopies or trim hedges for more light**
- ✓ **Aerate if compaction is present**

Water less, air more. Chickweed means your lawn is getting too much love. Back off the hose.



Spurge / Prostrate Spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*)

A low-growing, mat-forming summer annual broadleaf weed with small, oval leaves often marked with a reddish spot.

Prostrate Spurge forms a flat, ground-hugging mat, radiating from a central taproot with reddish stems that branch out and root where they touch the soil.

Thrives in: Hot, compacted soil, full-sun and dry zones, pavement cracks, and thin mulch or degraded landscape fabric.

Treatment

Post-emergent:
2,4-D or other broadleaf mixes

Treat before seed formation

Repeat in 10–14 days if needed

Identification



- 🔍 Flat, sprawling mats with red stems
- 🔍 Grows outward like a spider from a central point
- 🔍 Milky sap when broken
- 🔍 Tiny leaves, often with a dark central spot



- ✓ **Mulch beds with 3+ inches of fresh mulch annually**
- ✓ **Remove failed landscape fabric (causes heat buildup)**
- ✓ **Aerate and fertilize to crowd out spurge**

Spurge emerging in mulch? It means the fabric underneath is failing or the mulch layer is too thin.



Oxalis / Yellow Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*)

A perennial broadleaf weed easily identified by its shamrock-shaped, three-part leaves and small yellow flowers. Often confused with clover, but unlike clover, it spreads by seed.

Oxalis grows as an upright to slightly spreading clump from a central point, with slender stems holding the distinctive three-part leaves and yellow flowers. It spreads aggressively by ejecting seeds from small pods.

Thrives in: Hot, compacted lawns; drought-stressed turf; bare, thin areas; and dry zones along edges and fence lines.

Treatment

Post-emergent:

Use Triclopyr or Fluroxypyr

Spot treat as soon as plants emerge

Timing: Treat before flowering (typically June–July)

Identification



- 🔍 Clover-like, heart-shaped leaves (3 per stem)
- 🔍 Leaves fold up at night or in heat
- 🔍 Bright yellow flowers
- 🔍 Lemon-green color lighter than typical turf
- 🔍 Grows upright but small (3–6" tall)



- ✓ Overseed in fall to thicken turf
- ✓ Water deeply and infrequently to strengthen grass
- ✓ Fertilize to boost turf vigor and shade out weeds

Oxalis is photosensitive, early morning applications are most effective when the leaves are open and active.



Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)

A succulent, mat-forming summer annual broadleaf weed with fleshy, paddle-shaped leaves and small yellow flowers. It's extremely drought-tolerant and spreads fast due to its succulent stems, which store water.

Purslane forms a low, spreading mat, radiating from a central taproot. Its thick, succulent stems grow flat along the ground, forming dense patches that can root at the nodes.

Thrives in: Bare, heat-stressed soil, pavement cracks, overwatered mulch beds, and compacted ground with poor fertility.

Treatment

Post-emergent:

Dicamba or combination 3-way formulas (with 2,4-D + MCPP)

Pulling works only if you get all fleshy stems and roots

Re-treat in 7-10 days if regrowth appears

Identification



- 🔍 Thick, fleshy leaves (succulent-like)
- 🔍 Red or purple stems
- 🔍 Low-growing, spreading habit
- 🔍 Grows in radiating clusters
- 🔍 Tiny yellow flowers in direct sun



- ✓ Improve soil with compost or aeration
- ✓ Rake and refresh mulch annually
- ✓ Avoid overhead irrigation in beds. Water at base of plants

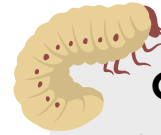
Purslane thrives where heat and compaction meet. Its presence is a signal your soil needs help. Improve the conditions, and the weed won't return.

What Lives Beneath Your Lawn

Your lawn is more than just grass. It's a complex ecosystem teeming with life, both beneficial and harmful. Understanding the key insects and organisms below the surface is the first step to effective pest management and soil health.

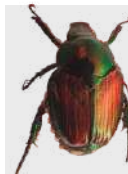
Grubs, Moles & Subsurface Enemies

The worst lawn damage often begins underground. This section covers hidden pests like grubs and the predators they attract, who tear up turf to find them.



Common Grub-producing beetles

The white grubs in your soil are not random. They are the larvae of specific, common beetles.



Japanese Beetle

Popillia japonica
Most common, invasive



June Beetle

Phyllophaga spp.



Oriental Beetle

Anomala orientalis



Green June Beetles

Cotinis nitida

GRUBS - The root destroyer

Grubs are the larval stage of beetles, living just below the soil surface. They feed on grassroots, causing large sections of turf to die, roll back like carpet, and become vulnerable to animal digging. Understanding their lifecycle is key to timing effective control.



Warning Signs of Grub Infestation

Grub damage often looks like other problems at first. Learn to spot these specific, telltale signs of an active infestation before large areas of your lawn are destroyed.



Turf Pulls Up Like Carpet

Roots are gone; grass detaches with almost no resistance.



Increased Animal Activity

Moles, skunks, and birds digging? They're hunting grubs in your lawn.



Brown Patches Appear

These patches spread and worsen rapidly in late summer.

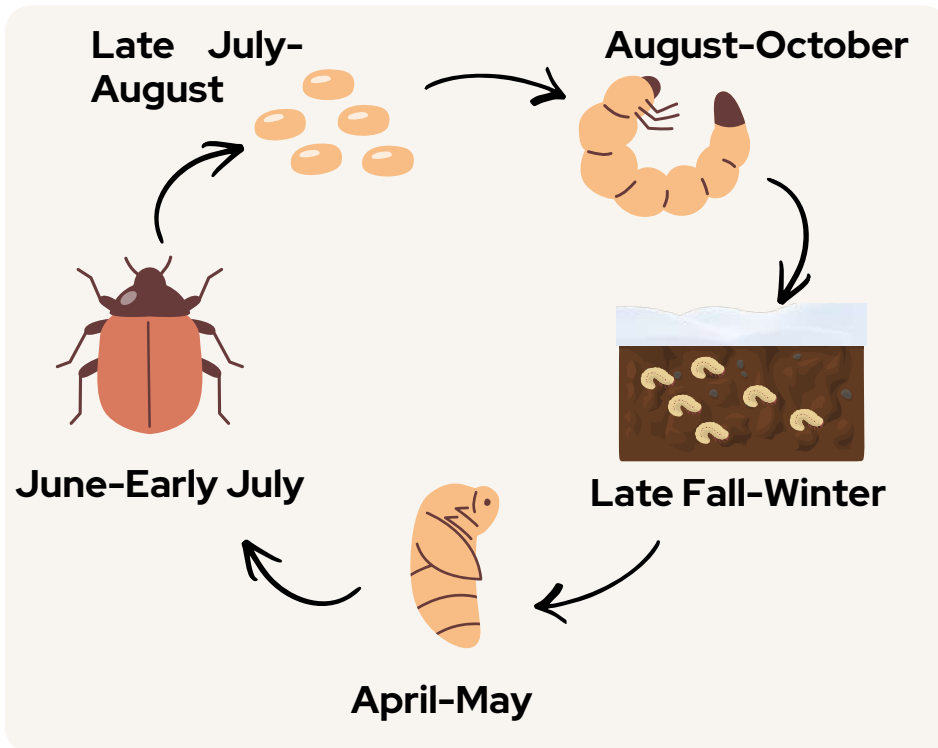


6+ Visible Grubs

Dig a 1 sq. ft., 2-4 inch deep patch. 6+ grubs signals risk. 10+ grubs is a serious infestation.

The Grub Life Cycle - Why Timing is Critical

Knowing when grubs hatch, grow, and feed is the secret to stopping them effectively.



June-Early July

Adult Beetles Emerge:

Mating and egg-laying begin near the soil surface

Late July-August

Eggs Hatch:

Tiny grubs emerge and start feeding on roots

August-October (damage most noticeable)

Peak Feeding:

Grubs grow rapidly, causing maximum damage

Late Fall-Winter

Overwintering Stage:

Grubs burrow deep (below frost line) to survive

April-May

Spring Pupation:

Grubs resurface, pupate, and become beetles

Grub Control Options

Grub control has two types. The right one depends on the grub's lifecycle stage and the time of year.

Preventative Grub Control (May-Early July)

Goal is to stop eggs from turning into hungry grubs.

Active Ingredient	Product
Imidacloprid	Merit®
Chlorantraniliprole	Acelepryn®

- ✓ Apply before beetle eggs hatch
- ✓ Kills young larvae as they emerge
- ✓ Provides season-long protection (3-4 months)

Due to high summer beetle activity, preventative control is the most reliable option here.

Curative Grub Control (Late July - September)

Goal is to kill grubs that are already feeding.

Active Ingredient	Product
Trichlorfon	Dylox®

- ✓ Apply within August to September
- ✓ Acts fast, within 24-48 hours
- ✓ Requires heavy watering after application to reach root zone
- ✓ Does not fix dead turf. It only stops further root loss

Curative treatments are a last resort. If you need them yearly, you are likely missing the ideal prevention window.



How to Repair Grub-damaged Turf

Once grubs are gone, the lawn still needs help to recover. Grub-damaged lawns don't bounce back unless you actively repair them.

Restoration Steps:

Rake out thatch and dead grass.



Overseed in early fall (September)

Use turf-type tall fescue or bluegrass for Indiana lawns. Apply a starter fertilizer to promote strong, deep root growth.



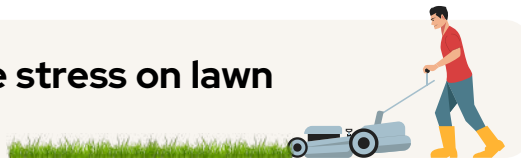
Water daily for 2-3 weeks after seeding.



Aerate compacted soil before seeding if needed.



Mow high to reduce stress on lawn and aid recovery.






Moles & Voles: Who's Tearing Up Your Lawn?

Most try to kill moles, but the real problem is their food source. Moles tunnel for earthworms and grubs, damaging roots indirectly. Their presence means your soil is full of life. Voles, however, directly eat grass blades and roots near gardens, causing clear surface damage. Identify the pest correctly to solve the real issue.


Blue Duck's Grub Protection Guarantee

 **1 Annual Preventative**

We apply one preventative grub treatment yearly for Blue Duck Lawn Care Program members. If damage still occurs, we will:

-  Inspect and verify infestation
-  Kill remaining grubs (if present)
-  Perform free slice seeding and lawn repair





It's our way of protecting your investment and your peace of mind. It is by far cheaper to prevent than it is to fix it.

CALL US TODAY
 (317) 748-3153

Mole Identification:

Look for these key signs to determine if you have moles tunneling under your lawn:



-  Raised tunnels that zig-zag under the surface
-  Cone-shaped mounds of soil ("molehills")
-  Soft, spongy ground in winding lines
-  Tunnels often collapse under foot pressure



How to Control Moles

This guide outlines strategies to make your lawn less attractive to moles and encouraging them to leave.

Eliminate Their Food Source

If moles have nothing to eat, they leave. Starve them out.

- ✓ Reduce earthworm populations with dry-downs (withhold irrigation temporarily)
- ✓ Avoid overwatering. Soft, moist soil attracts moles



Trap or Bait Strategically

If reducing food sources is not enough, direct removal may be necessary.



Method	Notes
Victor® Out O'Sight Trap	Must be placed in active tunnel (step-test first)
Talpid® Worm-Shaped Bait	Mimics worm. Place deep in active tunnel.
Tunneling Smoke Bombs	Temporary, less reliable
Castor Oil Repellents	Short-term effectiveness only; reapply after rain

Step-Test Tip: Flatten several tunnel sections and mark them. Re-check in 24 hours.

Re-raised tunnels = active run = perfect trap location.

What Doesn't Work (Long-Term)

- ✗ Sonic stakes (moles ignore them)
- ✗ Homemade chili-pepper or garlic sprays
- ✗ Bottled "mole chasers" (temporary at best)
- ✗ Flooding tunnels (causes surface damage without solving the issue)



Mole Behavior



Know how moles live and hunt to predict their movements and control them effectively.



Solitary and territorial.

A single mole creates the tunnels you see.



Active year-round.

Most active in spring and fall. They tunnel below the frost line in winter.



Voracious and relentless.

They can eat their body weight daily and dig 150+ feet of tunnel every day.



Earthworm specialists.

Moles hunt worms, not grass. While they will eat grubs in their path, grub control alone will not prevent moles, as worms are their main food source.

Vole Identification:

Voles cause very different damage than moles. Look for these key signs to confirm you have voles.



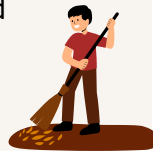
- ⚠️ Shallow surface tunnels or runways in the lawn
- ⚠️ Surface gnawing on grass and bark. Voles eat plants at ground level.
- ⚠️ Droppings in mulch beds or near foundations
- ⚠️ Most active under snow in winter and early spring.

How to Control Voles

Vole management requires a different strategy than mole control. These are the strategies to reduce their population and to protect your grass:

Clean Up Overgrowth

- ✓ Clear leaf litter, excess mulch, and groundcover clutter to eliminate hiding spots.
- ✓ Trim grass short along bed edges and fences.



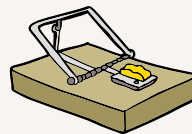
Install Physical Barriers

- ✓ Wrap young tree trunks with mesh guards
- ✓ Line raised beds with hardware cloth to block voles from below.



Trapping (Effective for Voles)

- ✓ Standard mouse traps with peanut butter
- ✓ Set traps perpendicular to runways
- ✓ Place traps inside tunnel openings or vole "highways"



Late winter is peak vole season. Snow hides them, but spring reveals the damage. Begin trapping as soon as the snow melts.

Use Vole Bait (with caution)

- ✓ Only use vole bait in non-pet, non-kid areas
- ✓ Read all labels. Bait is often regulated



Vole Behavior



Know how voles live and breed to disrupt their colonies and protect your plants effectively.



Small, mouse-like.

They resemble field mice but with a stouter body, smaller ears, and a shorter tail.



Active year-round.

Both day and night, with no true hibernation period.



Distinct surface damage.

They create visible runways that look like narrow, "mowed" paths.



Voracious plant-eaters.

They feed on grass blades, bulbs, roots, and young plants.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Save time, energy, and ensure results by calling in the experts. Call Blue Duck when:

- ⚠️ You've tried baiting and trapping but tunneling continues.
- ⚠️ You suspect grubs or soil pests are attracting wildlife.
- ⚠️ You're not sure whether it's moles, voles, or both.
- ⚙️ You want professional-grade methods.

CALL US TODAY
📞 (317) 748-3153



Fighting Lawn Fungal Diseases

Fungus is a silent, creeping threat that can devastate a lawn. They emerge when moisture, heat, and stress collide. In Indiana, this happens frequently between late spring and early fall, when:

- ⚠️ Humid nights trap moisture on grass blades.
- ⚠️ Rainfall follows a drought period.
- ⚠️ Mowers spread spores across wet turf.
- ⚠️ Watering at night creates ideal conditions for fungal spores to spread.

Most turf fungus begins invisibly. Within days, it can erupt into discolored patches, blade damage, or large dead zones which are often mistaken for drought stress, fertilizer burn, or mower damage. That's why correct identification matters.

Top 5 Indiana Lawn Fungal Diseases

This guide covers the identification, causes, and treatment for the five most common and damaging lawn diseases you're likely to encounter.

Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*)

One of the most destructive turf diseases in Indiana, especially during hot, humid summer nights. It spreads fast and can destroy large sections of turf almost overnight if left untreated.

Symptoms:

- 🔍 Large, irregular or circular patches of brown or tan grass.
- 🔍 Often 6 inches to several feet wide.
- 🔍 Dark "smoke ring" border visible in morning dew.
- 🔍 Grass looks damp, slimy, or matted in affected zones.

Lawn Care Mistakes That Lead to Disease

Often, the very practices meant to help a lawn can accidentally create the perfect environment for fungus.

Condition	Fungal Outcome
Watering at night	Traps moisture on blades
Mowing when wet	Spreads spores blade-to-blade
Dull mower blades	Shreds grass, opens infection
Excess thatch	Harbors fungal spores
Low nitrogen	Weakens grass defense system
Poor airflow (dense trees)	Encourages high humidity
Compact soil	Prevents drainage





Treatment

Fungicide:

Azoxystrobin (Heritage®),
Propiconazole (Banner MAXX®)

- ✓ Apply at first sign of symptoms.
- ✓ Water deeply, but only in early morning.

Mycelium of *Rhizoctonia solani*, fungus that causes brown patches in lawn.

Source: **Cultivar**



- ✓ Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizer in summer heat.
- ✓ Mow tall and never remove more than 1/3 of the blade.
- ✓ Aerate compacted areas to improve air circulation.
- ✓ Sharpen mower blades regularly.

Never water at night. It fuels this fungus.

Dollar Spot (*Clarireedia jacksonii*)

Dollar spots might look harmless at first, just a few small tan circles. But it can quickly spread across the lawn, especially in underfed turf. It's most common in low-nitrogen soils and during mild, humid weather in spring and fall weather.

Symptoms:

- 🔍 Silver dollar-sized tan or bleached spots (1-3" wide).
- 🔍 Multiple spots may merge into large patches.
- 🔍 Grass blades show hourglass-shaped lesions with reddish-brown edges.



Treatment

Fungicide:

Propiconazole or
Thiophanate-methyl

Nitrogen boost:

Light application of slow-release fertilizer

Mycelium of *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, fungus that causes dollar spot.

Source: **Barb Corwin,**
Turfgrass Diagnostics,
Bugwood.org



- ✓ Maintain a consistent fertilization schedule.
- ✓ Mow when grass is dry to prevent spreading spores.
- ✓ Reduce shade and improve airflow.

A low-nitrogen lawn invites dollar spot every time.



Red Thread (*Laetisaria fuciformis*)

Red Thread is more unsightly than fatal. It appears as pink, thread-like growth on cool-season grasses during cool, damp weather in spring and fall, often signaling a lawn in need of nitrogen.

Symptoms:

- 🔍 Pink or red stringy threads on leaf tips.
- 🔍 Irregular tan to pink patches, 2–6 inches wide.
- 🔍 Grass may appear faded, thin, or patchy.



Mycelium of *Laetisaria fuciformis*, fungus that causes red thread.

Source: [Wikimedia](#)

Treatment

Fungicide:

Rarely requires fungicide. If severe, Azoxystrobin or Fludioxonil

Nitrogen boost:

Light nitrogen application restores grass health quickly.



- ✓ Fertilize based on soil test.
- ✓ Improve drainage in low areas.
- ✓ Mow regularly and at proper height.

Looks alarming but is easily reversed with proper fertilization.

Rust Fungus (*Puccinia spp.*)

Rust fungus doesn't kill your lawn, but it weakens it over time, making it more vulnerable to other issues. It thrives in shady areas and during slow-growth periods (late summer, drought, or low fertility).

Symptoms:

- 🔍 Orange, powdery rust on shoes or mower blades.
- 🔍 Grass appears yellowish, dull, or dusty.
- 🔍 Leaf blades may thin out or tear easily.





Rust fungus, *Puccinia* sp., fruiting bodies, Telium, vertical section, in turf.

Source: **Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org**

Treatment

Fungicide:

Rarely requires fungicide.

Nitrogen boost:

Light nitrogen application to jump-start growth.

- ✓ Mow often to remove infected grass blades.



- ✓ Maintain a balanced fertilization program.
- ✓ Water deeply once or twice a week.
- ✓ Trim trees or shrubs to improve light exposure.

If your lawn turns your socks orange, it's not dirt, it's rust.

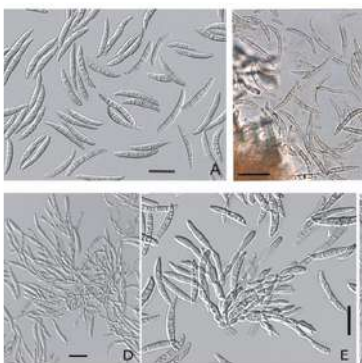
Gray Snow Mold (*Typhula* spp.)

Pink Snow Mold (*Microdochium nivale*)

Snow Mold appears in early spring under melting snow, revealing matted, discolored patches. It's caused by prolonged snow cover on lawns with excess thatch or leaf debris.

Symptoms:

- 🔍 Circular patches (2–12") of gray, white, or pink mold.
- 🔍 May have a musty smell.
- 🔍 Grass looks matted or dead, often found in shaded or low areas.



Aggregated conidiophores with conidigenous cells of *Microdochium nivale*.

Source: **Evidence of *Microdochium* Fungi Associated with Cereal Grains in Russia (Gagkaeva et al., 2020)**

Treatment

Fungicide:

No chemical needed in most cases.

Nutrient boost:

Apply a light spring fertilizer to speed up recovery.

- ✓ Rake out affected patches to improve air flow and stimulate new growth.



- ✓ Rake leaves in late fall before snowfall.
- ✓ Perform a final mow at 2.5–3" in November.

Final mow + leaf cleanup = zero snow mold in spring.

Troubleshooting Lawn Problems like a PRO

When your lawn sends a distress signal, a systematic approach finds the true cause. This section provides a diagnostic framework to move past guesswork, correctly identify issues from weeds to disease, and apply the right solution.

STEP 1 - Identify the Pattern

Look at the shape, location, and spread of the problem. Lawn issues often follow a visual clue.

Pattern	Likely Problem
Round, expanding circles	Fungal disease (e.g. Brown Patch)
Along sidewalks or driveways	Heat or salt stress
Shady areas only	Low light + thinning
Turf lifts up like carpet	Grub damage
Yellow streaks or lines	Mower tracks or tire rutting
Edges of lawn fading	Scalping, compacted soil
Near shrubs or trees	Competition or root stress
Tiny brown spots with orange dust	Rust fungus
Green blades with missing tips	Insects or dull mower blade



Take photos and note timing. Did it happen after a mow? After rain? Did it spread quickly?

STEP 2 - Inspect the Soil

The answer is often underfoot. Check soil moisture, compaction, and texture. Use a screwdriver or small trowel to check 3–4 inches deep in affected areas.

Soil Condition	What It Means
Dusty, dry, crumbly	Underwatering
Wet, mushy, doesn't drain	Overwatering or clay compaction
Hard as concrete	Compacted soil, needs aeration
Thatch layer half inch or more	Thatch buildup → fungal disease risk
Spongy but no thatch	Grub damage (roots eaten)



Always dig a 1' x 1' square if you suspect grubs or insect damage. Count visible grubs.

STEP 3 - Check the Weather and Lawn History

Timing matters! Consider what's happened in the past 7–10 days.

Recent Event	Likely Result
Heavy rain + high humidity	Fungus outbreak
Heatwave + no rain	Drought stress
Mowed lawn short	Scalping → sunburn or weeds
Applied fertilizer recently	Possible burn or surge growth
New seed applied in summer	Likely to fail - wrong season
Irrigating every day	Shallow roots + disease risk
Dogs in yard	Urine burn spots (rings, not patches)



Use your weather app to track rainfall and heat stress. Grass is sensitive to sudden changes.



Treating fungus or grubs late doesn't reverse damage.

Reseeding is essential.

Indiana's Top Lawn Problems & Solutions

Below are the top troublemakers homeowners report, along with proven solutions based on decades of local turf experience.

Brown Patches That Spread

You notice light brown or straw-colored areas expanding outward, especially in summer. They may look like drought, but the grass is already dead in the middle.

Possible Causes:

- 👉 **Brown Patch fungus** (if humid and warm)
- 👉 **Grub infestation** (late summer or fall)
- 👉 **Drought stress or uneven watering**
- 👉 **Dog urine** (small rings, not irregular patches)

How to Confirm:



- Check for a smoky border (fungus)
- Dig 3"–4" down and tug - if grass lifts easily = grubs
- Use screwdriver test to check soil dryness

What To Do:

- If fungus:** Apply fungicide.
- If grubs:** Treat with Dylox (curative), then overseed in fall.
- If dry soil:** Water deeply (1–1.5" weekly), early morning only.
- If dogs:** Train them to use one designated spot and flush with water.

Lawn Looks Pale, Yellow, or Weak

The grass isn't dead, but it's not thriving. Color is faded, growth is slow, and the lawn looks tired, especially when the rest of the neighborhood is lush.

Possible Causes:

- 👉 **Low nitrogen or poor soil nutrition**
- 👉 **Rust fungus** (check for orange powder)
- 👉 **Shallow watering** (grass roots stay too close to surface)
- 👉 **Shade stress** (slow growth under trees)

How to Confirm:



- ✓ **Lawn greens up after rain temporarily?** Likely a watering or nutrient issue.
- ✓ **Rub a leaf blade between your fingers. Orange dust means Rust.**
- ✓ **Use screwdriver test to check soil dryness**

What To Do:

- ✓ **Apply a balanced fertilizer** (especially with nitrogen)
- ✓ **Sharpen mower blades** to avoid blade fraying
- ✓ **Aerate compacted soil, then topdress with compost**
- ✓ **Thin trees or increase airflow in shady zones**



A tired-looking lawn is a hungry lawn. Feed it!

Grass Tips Are "Chewed"/Ragged

The grass isn't discolored but look torn, not cut. Damage may be worse near shaded areas or garden beds.

Possible Causes:

- 👉 **Dull mower blades**
- 👉 **Sod webworms or chinch bugs** chewing at night
- 👉 **Rabbit or vole activity** in nearby mulch or flower beds

How to Confirm:



- ✓ **Run your hand across a grass blade.** If it's frayed or split, the problem is your mower blade.
- ✓ **Small green pellets (worm frass) at soil level = insect feeding**
- ✓ **Inspect at dawn or dusk with a flashlight** to catch crawling lawn pests in action.

What To Do:

- ✓ **If dull mower blade:** Sharpen or replace mower blades (2-3 times per season)
- ✓ **If insect pests:** Apply appropriate chemical treatment.
- ✓ **Clean up yard edges, overgrowth, or vole nesting sites**



Mower maintenance is lawn maintenance.

Dull blades = plant trauma

Lawn Thinning in Shady Areas

Even though you're watering and mowing correctly, grass under trees or next to fences is thinning or fading away.

Possible Causes:

- 👉 **Tree root competition for water and nutrients**
- 👉 **Lack of sunlight** (most turfgrass needs 4–6 hours minimum)
- 👉 **Mower scalping shaded areas with uneven terrain**

How to Confirm:



- ✓ **Watch sun exposure.** Are these areas shaded until late afternoon?
- ✓ **Compare with full-sun areas:** if those thrive, it's not your maintenance
- ✓ **Check for exposed tree roots**

What To Do:

- ✓ **Overseed with shade-tolerant blend** (fine fescue or creeping red)
- ✓ **Apply compost topdressing in spring and fall** for gentle, balanced nutrition.
- ✓ **Trim lower tree branches** to increase filtered light
- ✓ **Mow higher in these zones and cut less frequently**



Grass is not a forest plant. Give it light or it will give up.

Yellow or Bleached Tracks Across the Lawn

You see linear patterns of yellowing or browning, at times wide, sometimes narrow especially after mowing or rain.

Possible Causes:

- 👉 **Mower wheel damage** (especially after rain)
- 👉 **Herbicide or fertilizer spill from a backpack sprayer or spreader**
- 👉 **Dog pathing** (same daily route)

How to Confirm:



- ✓ **Perfect symmetry or repeating lines = equipment damage**
- ✓ **Check the lawn care calendar, any recent spraying?**
- ✓ **If narrow tracks = foot traffic, pets, or child play areas**

What To Do:

- ✓ **Avoid mowing when soil is soft or soggy**
- ✓ **Calibrate spreaders and walk slower when applying product**
- ✓ **Redirect pets using barriers or hardscape paths**
- ✓ **Reseed damaged areas in fall**



Regular mower blade checks are essential.

Even small mower errors can leave weeks of visible lawn damage.

Seasonal Weed & Pest Calendar

This calendar breaks down the critical windows for prevention and action throughout the year, so you can apply the right solution at the right time in Indiana.

Early Spring (March – April)

Gently wake the lawn and block early weeds.

Task	Details
Pre-emergent herbicide	Prevent crabgrass and foxtail. Apply pre-emergent before soil hits 50–55°F for 5+ days.
Weed spotting	Spot treat chickweed, clover, and dandelions early with 2,4-D blends before they mature.
Check for vole damage	After snow melts, rake out vole-damaged grass from visible surface tunnels.
First mow of the season	Cut slightly lower than normal to remove winter debris, but avoid scalping.
Soil testing	Test every 2–3 years to set your fertilizing plan for the season.

Late Spring (May)

Strengthen turf and begin preventative pest control.

Task	Details
Do not overseed	Pre-emergents will block grass seed from germinating. Wait until fall.
Start grub prevention	Apply Acelepryn or Imidacloprid to stop grub damage before it starts.
Monitor for sod webworms	Look for chewed blades or thinning grass in sunny spots.
Spot treat broadleaf weeds	Treat visible dandelions, clover, and plantain before summer heat sets in.
Watering habits begin now	Water deeply and infrequently to build strong roots. Avoid shallow, daily watering.



Get ahead of grubs in May.

Not in July when they're already feeding

Summer (June – August)

Focus on disease prevention and heat stress management.

Task	Details
Raise mowing height	Mow high (3.5"–4") to shade soil and resist heat, weeds, and fungus.
Watch for fungal diseases	Look for brown patches, dollar spots, and red thread. Water early morning only.
Clean mower blades	Sanitize to avoid spreading disease especially during high humidity.
Insect watch	Monitor for chinch bugs, sod webworms, and armyworms.



Lawn looking worse in July?

Indiana turf naturally slows down in heat. Don't overreact. Stay the course.

Fall (September – October)

Rebuild turf and control fall weeds and grubs. Prime season for lawn improvements.

Task	Details
Core aeration & overseeding	Best time of year to thicken your lawn. Fall seeding = strongest roots.
Apply curative grub control (if needed)	If grub damage appears, use Dylox and overseed immediately after.
Avoid weed killers on new seed	Wait 4 weeks or 3 mowings before applying any herbicide to newly seeded grass.
Rake leaves early and often	Leaves block light, invite disease, and kill new seedlings.
Starter fertilizer	Use a phosphorus-rich formula to promote root growth after seeding.



Want to fix bare spots?

Seed between Mid-August and Mid-October. Wait too long, and seedlings won't survive winter.

Late Fall (November)

Winterize turf and prevent snow mold.

Task	Details
Final mow of the season	Mow to 2.5–3 inches before the first snow to prevent snow mold.
Mulch or remove final leaves	Mold spores love compacted leaf mats. Keep turf clean.
Late-season weed control	After 3 mowings, you can apply post-emergent herbicide to mature turf, not new seedlings.
Winterizer fertilizer (optional)	Use potassium-rich fertilizer to help grass store nutrients over winter.
Vole prevention	Trim the edges of mulch beds and gardens.

Quick Monthly Reference Guide

Month	Key Tasks
March	Pre-emergent, cleanup, early mowing
April	Spot treat weeds, rake vole trails
May	Grub prevention, mow taller, stop seeding
June	Watch for fungus, clean mower blades
July	Water deeply, avoid fertilizing
August	Monitor for grubs, disease outbreaks
September	Aerate, overseed, starter fertilizer
October	Mow regularly, avoid leaf buildup
November	Final mow, apply winterizer, rake leaves

Seasonal Strategy: When to Be Aggressive vs. Conservative

Season	Be Aggressive With...	Be Cautious With...
Early Spring	Pre-emergents, early weed control	Mowing too low
Late Spring	Fertilizer, grub prevention	Seeding or soil disturbance
Summer	Watering schedule, disease watch	Fertilizer, mowing too short
Fall	Seeding, aeration, soil improvement	Herbicide on new grass
Late Fall	Cleanup, mowing, light weed control	Heavy nitrogen late in season


DIY vs. Professional Lawn Care

This section compares the effort, cost, and results of doing it yourself versus hiring a professional service like Blue Duck, helping you make the right choice for your lawn and lifestyle.

Feature	DIY Care	Professional Care
Cost	Lower upfront	Higher upfront, long-term value
Diagnosis	Self-assessment (risk of error)	Expert on-site diagnosis
Product Strength	Homeowner-grade	Commercial-grade (more effective)
Timing Accuracy	Based on personal availability	Based on weather + turf conditions
Convenience	Flexible, but requires effort	Scheduled visits, hands-off for you
Problem Solving	Trial and error	Immediate solution and retreatment
Grub Control Guarantee	None	Often included in service
Risk of Turf Damage	Medium to high (wrong product/time)	Low. Professionals are licensed

The Best of Both: DIY + Pro Care Combo

Many homeowners use a hybrid approach:

You Handle This	 Blue Duck Handles This
Mowing	Seasonal treatments
Light watering	Fertilization & weed control
Mulching garden beds	Grub & insect prevention
Light spot spraying	Fungus identification & treatment
Leaf cleanup	Aeration, seeding, renovation

DIY Lawn Care

Advantages

- ✓ Lower upfront cost (especially short-term)
- ✓ Full control over timing and products
- ✓ Satisfying if you enjoy outdoor projects
- ✓ Plenty of how-to content online

Disadvantages

- ✗ Harder to diagnose issues
- ✗ Less potent products
- ✗ Common application errors
- ✗ Upfront cost for equipment
- ✗ No guarantee if it fails

PRO Lawn Care

Advantages

- ✓ Expert diagnosis
- ✓ Best-rated products
- ✓ Precision timing
- ✓ Guaranteed results
- ✓ No product handling
- ✓ Consistent seasonal care

Disadvantages

- ✗ Higher upfront cost
- ✗ Less involvement
- ✗ Scheduling service visits

Ideal For:

- 👍 Busy homeowners
- 👍 Guarantee-seekers
- 👍 Solving complex issues



When to Call Blue Duck

You've mowed, watered, sprayed, and tried to follow all the advice. But something's still wrong. The lawn won't green up. Weeds are coming back. Brown spots are spreading. When your best efforts aren't enough, the smartest move is one call to Blue Duck.

Common Situations That Call for a Pro

The fastest fix is calling someone who has seen it all. Here are clear signs it's time to pick up the phone:

Grubs or Turf Pulling Up

- ☹️ You find 6+ grubs per square foot
- ☹️ Turf lifts like a carpet
- ☹️ Animals are digging up the lawn nightly.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

✓ We apply preventative treatments.

All season-long coverage guaranteed, and if grub damage still occurs, we'll repair and reseed at no cost.

Weeds Won't Die (After 2 Rounds)

- ☹️ You've sprayed twice with no results.
- ☹️ New weeds appear right after treatment.
- ☹️ Shady spots and edges are overrun with persistent invaders.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

🔧 We use high-strength products.

Our technicians precisely identify the weed and apply a targeted, professional-grade herbicide mix, not available in stores.



Turn frustration into a clear diagnosis.

Most of our customers don't call because they're lazy. They call because they've tried everything and are now overwhelmed. If you:

- ☹️ Applied weed killer and the weeds came back.
- ☹️ Treated for fungus but it got worse.
- ☹️ Have patches that don't improve after watering.

...then it's time for a second opinion. **A misdiagnosis can cost your lawn 3 months of recovery.**

CALL US TODAY
📞 (317) 748-3153



What Happens During a Blue Duck Inspection?

- ✓ We walk your lawn and inspect patterns, soil, and turf condition.
- ✓ We identify pest, disease, or cultural problems with on-the-spot feedback.
- ✓ We recommend a treatment plan (and explain why it works).
- ✓ We offer guaranteed results for grub control, seeding, and repairs.

You get answers. Fast. And no pressure to sign up unless it makes sense for you.



Brown Spots That Spread

- ☹ Spots grow daily, even with water.
- ☹ Fungicide you've tried isn't working.
- ☹ Symptoms don't match drought or mower damage.



Quick Checklist: Should You Call?

If you're on the fence about professional help, this simple checklist will clarify your next step.

Situation	Call Blue Duck?
I see 10+ grubs in a 1x1 sq. ft. area	☑ Yes
Weeds return after spraying twice.	☑ Yes
Brown spots keep spreading	☑ Yes
I just seeded my lawn	☑ Yes (for guidance)
My mower is leaving tracks	☒ No (check blades or timing)
Lawn fades after hot weather	☒ No (likely heat stress)
I suspect fungus but haven't confirmed	☑ Yes
Moles are active every week	☑ Yes
Lawn looks pale or weak overall	☑ Yes (fertility check)
Want an expert opinion	☑ Yes

LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

🎯 **Fast diagnosis = fast recovery.**

We identify the specific lawn disease with precision, allowing us to stop the infection before it causes permanent damage to your turf.



You Just Seeded (or Plan To)

- ☹ Unsure when it's safe to spray.
- ☹ Worried weed killer will harm new grass.
- ☹ Need help timing overseeding around treatments.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

🛡 **We protect your investment.**

We build your treatment plan around your seeding schedule to protect your new grass investment.



Moles Tearing Up the Yard

- ☹ Fresh tunnels appear daily.
- ☹ Traps, repellents, and poisons have failed.
- ☹ You suspect grubs but haven't confirmed.



LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

🎯 **We solve the problem at its source.**

Our service includes inspecting and controlling the mole population while simultaneously treating the soil to reduce their primary food source.



The goal isn't a sterile lawn, but a resilient one. One that bounces back because you've built it to.



You're Just Not Sure What's Happening



- Your lawn looks wrong, but the cause is a mystery.
- Multiple DIY fixes have failed.
- Tired of guessing and want a professional diagnosis.

LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT.

We end the cycle of guesswork.

We've seen it all. Our turf experts can accurately diagnose your issue. This precise identification saves you time, stress, and money.

CALL US TODAY (317) 748-3153



Time is Money... And So Is Grass

Lawn recovery takes weeks. Sometimes months. If a DIY misstep kills part of your turf or lets weeds go to seed, it might cost far more to fix than to prevent.

Professional lawn care is like insurance:

It protects your investment, saves you time, and gives you peace of mind during Central Indiana's growing seasons.

SUMMARY: You Don't Have to Do This Alone

Caring for your lawn can be rewarding, but it can also be overwhelming. With the right knowledge, and the right help, you can defend your lawn confidently.

You only need to remember a few things:

- Your Lawn's Enemies are Predictable.**
Weeds, grubs, and fungus follow seasonal patterns. Prevention is your strongest defense.
- Diagnose Before You Treat.**
Using the wrong fix wastes time and money, and often worsens the problem. Observe patterns and inspect soil first.
- When in Doubt, Call Blue Duck.**
DIY works for upkeep, but experts handle tough problems.

You don't have to battle your lawn alone. Sometimes the smartest move is calling someone who sees these problems every day.

Next up...

You've learned to prepare for almost anything. But what happens when the damage has already been done? Next, we'll move from defense to recovery!



When in doubt, we're here to help.

If your lawn's problem has you stumped, a single call to Blue Duck brings expert eyes, a clear plan, and guaranteed results.

CALL US TODAY
 (317) 748-3153



JEN D.

Weeds Gone:) Happy customer

Weeds started to die within 24-48 hours. Affordable and effective. Give it a try:)

Noblesville, IN

07/16/2025



Uninvited Guests 105



CHAPTER 8

from bare to beautiful

The Essential Guide to
Lawn Recovery & Repair



You Hold The Seeds of Change

Restoring Damaged Indiana Lawns Step by Step

Every lawn tells a story. Some chapters are written in bare patches, compacted soil, or seasons of neglect. But the best part of this story is that grass is one of the most resilient plants on earth. With the right knowledge and steps, you can rewrite any chapter, transforming the roughest plot into a beautiful, thriving lawn.

At Blue Duck, we don't believe in quick fixes or gimmicks. True lawn recovery is a step-by-step science based on soil health, turf biology, and Indiana's specific seasons and clay.

This process demands patience. A full lawn transformation often requires multiple seasons of consistent care. But this commitment is what builds a resilient, self-sustaining lawn. If you stop, the progress reverses. Our approach is designed not just to repair, but to establish a lasting foundation.

Whether you're healing a small bare spot or reclaiming your entire yard, this guide provides the confidence, science, and practical steps to rebuild your lawn from the ground up, ensuring every square foot thrives.

Reviving Neglected or Damaged Lawns

A neglected or damaged lawn isn't a lost cause. It's a system in need of a reset. Recovery is not only possible, it's predictable when you follow the correct steps in the right order. This is your roadmap for taking a neglected lawn and transforming it into a backyard worth showing off.



This chapter will guide you through the same recovery process used by professionals, helping you:

- ✓ Diagnose what's really wrong.
- ✓ Correct the soil conditions
- ✓ Reseed with the right methods
- ✓ Water properly for long-term success

Neglected Lawn Symptoms

A lawn communicates its needs through clear, visible signs. Neglected lawns usually suffer from one or more of the following:

- ⚠ Thinning turf
- ⚠ Excess thatch
- ⚠ Weeds dominating empty spaces
- ⚠ Soil compaction
- ⚠ Drought stress
- ⚠ Pet urine spots
- ⚠ Patchy or uneven growth
- ⚠ Heavy clay restricting root growth

When a lawn has multiple issues at once, **the key is addressing them in the correct order, not treating everything on the surface.**

How to Restore a Tired Lawn from the Soil Up

Even the best lawns go through rough seasons. Whatever the cause, a damaged lawn can feel overwhelming, especially when multiple problems appear at once. Here's the proven recovery sequence used by Blue Duck:

Step 1: Diagnose the Root Cause

Before you do anything: stop and diagnose. Fixing the wrong problem wastes time and money, and often makes the real issue worse.

Most lawn problems fall into a four core categories, making it easier to find the true cause.

Problem Type	Common Clues
Soil structure	Hard soil, poor drainage, puddling, cracking
Cultural practice	Scalping, poor watering habits, mowing too short
Nutrient imbalance	Pale color, poor growth, no recovery after rain
Pests/disease	Sudden browning, lifting turf, visible grubs, fungi



The truth is there if you know how to look.

Fixing the wrong problem wastes time and money. A correct diagnosis is the only path to a correct recovery.

STEP 2: Remove Barriers to Growth

Think of this step as prepping the canvas before painting. Here are the essential actions to take:



Aeration: Opens clay soil for better air, water, and root growth.



Weed Control: Eliminate dominant weeds before seeding, then wait 4–6 weeks after seeding before applying any herbicide to protect new grass.



Dethatch if needed: If your thatch layer is over half an inch thick, remove it. Thick thatch blocks seed, fertilizer, and water from reaching the soil.



Do not dethatch unless necessary.

Over-dethatching damage healthy grass. For Indiana's clay soil, core aeration is the more effective and beneficial practice for long-term lawn health.



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Enjoy the time you spend outside by taking the lawn work out of the equation. ☎ (317) 748-3153

GET FREE INSTANT ESTIMATE

As easy as entering your address!

Enter your home address



Safe and secure, visit www.blueducklawn.com

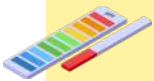


STEP 3: Improve Soil Conditions

Healthy grass starts with healthy soil. Seeds planted in poor soil may sprout but won't thrive.



Loosen bare soil before seeding. Break the soil surface with a rake or cultivator so seed can contact soil and anchor properly.



Correct soil pH if needed. Adjust pH to 6.2–7.0 for cool-season grasses. Use lime or sulfur only as a soil test directs before seeding.



Topdress with a quarter inch of compost (after seeding) It improves soil texture, drainage, and moisture retention while boosting microbial life.



Compost topdressing is the most underrated lawn tool.

A single, thin layer dramatically improves seed germination and builds long-term soil health.

Step 6: Fall Fertilization

A final, balanced fall fertilizer strengthens roots, boosts winter hardiness, and guarantees a healthier, quicker green-up next spring.

Timing:

- ✓ Apply fertilizer 2–4 weeks after overseeding.
- ✓ Use a starter fertilizer first.
- ✓ Then apply a balanced or high-nitrogen fertilizer in late fall.

STEP 4: Reintroduce Grass (Overseeding)

With the barriers removed and the soil prepared, it is time to restore life to your lawn. Overseeding is how you rebuild turf density, improve disease resistance, and outcompete weeds.

No overseeding = no recovery.

STEP 5: Maintain Consistent Water

Most lawn failures aren't caused by poor seed, they're caused by inconsistent moisture in the critical first two weeks after seeding.

Water deeply immediately after seeding. Soak each zone for 45–60 minutes to settle the seed and saturate the soil. Consistent moisture is non-negotiable for germination and root growth.

Weeks 1 & 2: Water daily for 15–20 minutes per zone each morning to keep the seedbed moist.

Weeks 3 & 4: Water every other morning for 15–20 minutes per zone to encourage deeper roots.

Next 30 Days: Water 1–2 times weekly for 1 hour per zone, aiming for 1–1.5 inches of water weekly to build deep roots.

Bare Patch Repair Step-by-Step

Bare spots are more than just ugly, they're invitations for weeds, pests, and erosion. The good news? You can fix bare patches permanently, but only if you prep the soil, choose the right seed, and water it like a new lawn (because that's what it is).

This step-by-step plan gives you the same repair method we use at Blue Duck:

Step 1: Cut Out the Dead Zone

Clear all dead and matted grass before seeding. This debris forms a barrier that blocks seed from reaching the soil and establishing roots.

How-to:

- ✓ Use a flat spade, garden knife, or hand rake
- ✓ Cut a square or circle around the dead patch
- ✓ Clear the top ½ inch of debris, weeds, or dead grass
- ✓ Loosen the top 1 inch of soil using rake or cultivator

Step 2: Add Compost or Topsoil

Rebuild the soil in bare patches. These areas are often compacted and depleted. Good seed requires moist, nutrient-rich soil with air space to germinate and root quickly.

How-to:

- ✓ Add ½–1 inch of screened compost
- ✓ Rake it evenly into the loosened patch
- ✓ Optional: Mix in starter fertilizer to boost growth

Overseeding is non-negotiable

Thin, bare, or weedy lawns need new grass. Grass doesn't "spread" like groundcover, it must be reseeded.

Why It's Non-Negotiable:

- ✓ Old grass varieties don't resist heat or disease like new ones.
- ✓ Bare patches invite weeds unless new seed fills the space.
- ✓ Overseeding = lawn renewal without starting over



Create a mini garden bed for your grass.

Clear debris and loosen the soil like you're planting vegetables.



Choose compost over bagged topsoil.

Compost introduces beneficial microbes and actively improves the structure of Indiana's clay soil for the long term.

Step 3: Apply Seed Generously

A single blade cannot fill a patch. Apply seed generously to ensure dense, even coverage that seamlessly blends with your existing lawn.

How-to:

- ✓ Choose a seed mix that matches your lawn type
- ✓ Use 2x the normal seeding rate for small patches
- ✓ Spread evenly and slightly overlap edges

Example: For a 1 sq. ft. patch, use 0.25–0.5 oz of seed

Step 4: Press and Water

Seed must make direct contact with the soil to germinate. Press it down and water immediately to prevent drying out and ensure strong germination rates.

How-to:

- ✓ Press the seed into the soil gently with the back of a rake or your hand
- ✓ Optional: Use a lawn roller or tamper for better contact
- ✓ Water immediately after seeding until the soil is damp but not puddled

Step 5: Maintain Moisture (Critical Stage)

Consistent moisture keeps young roots alive during the most fragile phase of growth. This keeps young, fragile roots alive during germination. Missing even one day of watering can kill sprouting grass.

Watering Schedule:

- 💧 **Immediately after seeding:** Water for 45–60 mins.
- 💧 **Week 1–2:** Water daily for 15–20 mins each morning.
- 💧 **Weeks 3–4:** Water for 15–20 mins every other morning.
- 💧 **Next 30 days:** Water 1–2 times weekly for 1 hour, aiming for 1–1.5 inches of water weekly.
- 💧 **After 1st mowing:** Water 1–2 times weekly as roots deepen



Use a patch mix for faster results.

These products combine seed with a starter medium, or you can cover your own seed with a thin layer of peat moss to improve moisture retention and germination.



Never skip pressing the seed into the soil.

This is the number one reason patch repairs fail, as unsecured seed dries out or washes away.



If the soil surface crusts over or turns dusty, you are under-watering.

This prevents germination and can kill sprouting grass.

————— “ —————
To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.
————— ” —————

Step 6: Mow Only When Ready

Wait to mow until the new grass is firmly rooted. Mowing too soon can rip up young plants or damage them with the mower's wheels.

How-to:

- ✔ Wait until new grass is 3–3.5 inches tall
- ✔ Mow on a dry day with a sharp blade
- ✔ Mow at the highest setting (never cut more than 1/3 of the blade)

Common Patch Repair Mistakes

Small missteps can undo your hard work. These are the most common patch repair errors and how to fix them.

Mistake	What Happens	What to do
Skipping soil prep	Seed won't root	Always loosen and amend
No seed-to-soil contact	Poor or no germination	Press seed down every time
Inconsistent watering	Sprouts die before rooting	Water lightly, consistently
Using wrong seed	Patch looks different from rest	Match type or use a blend
Mowing too early	Tears up new grass	Wait for 3"+ height

Grass Doesn't Just Die Without a Reason

Grass is resilient, if it died in a specific area, something caused it.

This section walks you through the **Top 8 Causes of Bare Patches** in Indiana lawns, how to recognize them, and what to do next.



Test if it's safe to mow by tugging the grass gently.

If the grass stays firmly rooted in the soil, it is ready for its first cut.



Don't seed until you fix the problem.

Most patch failures are caused by soil, sun, pests, or habits, not the seed itself.



Aeration for Lasting Lawn Health

Great seed needs great soil to grow. Aeration service is the critical first step in relieving soil compaction so new grass can root deeply and thrive.

- ✔ Improves fertilizer efficiency
- ✔ Enhances overseeding success
- ✔ Encourages deeper root systems
- ✔ Helps lawns recover faster from heat and drought

When we aerate your lawn, we also overseed it for you.

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153



Pet Urine (Especially Dogs)

Repeated pet traffic and concentrated urine damage grass roots and burn turf in small, predictable areas.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Small, round patches of dead grass
- 🔍 Appears as yellow in the middle surrounded by a dark green ring around the edge.
- 🔍 Found along fences or patios where pets regularly walk and urinate.



How to Fix it:

- ✅ Train pets to use one area
- ✅ Water the area heavily after each use to dilute the urine
- ✅ Use spot treatments and reseed with a urine-tolerant mix



Use turf-type tall fescue in high-traffic pet areas.

It tolerates dog traffic and urine better than Kentucky bluegrass.

Grubs or Insect Damage

Grubs feed on grass roots underground. By the time you see damage, the root system is already gone.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Patches that die suddenly in late summer or early fall
- 🔍 Turf lifts up like a carpet when tugged
- 🔍 Birds, moles, or raccoons may be digging



How to Fix it:

- ✅ Perform a grub check (dig 1 ft² and count larvae)
- ✅ If 6 or more grubs are found, treat with Dylox or a curative product
- ✅ Reseed immediately and water deeply



Apply a preventative grub treatment in May.

A professional preventative like Acelepryn or Imidacloprid to avoid this issue entirely.

Heat or Drought Stress

Indiana clay dries fast in summer. Shallow roots from poor watering lead to dormancy or death.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Thin, brown patches in full sun areas
- 🔍 Soil feels dusty or cracked
- 🔍 May appear during or after a heatwave



How to Fix it:

- ✅ Avoid mowing shorter than 3.5"
- ✅ Water deeply in early morning (up to 3" per week)
- ✅ Aerate in fall to improve water absorption



Water deeply, not daily.

Shallow, frequent watering encourages weak roots that cannot survive Indiana's summer heat.

Mowing Mistakes

Mowing too short stresses the grass and exposes soil to sunburn. Dull mower blades tear instead of cutting, damaging the crown of the plant.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Turf looks scalped, especially on hills or dips
- 🔍 Patterns match your mowing route
- 🔍 Bare spots appear in mower wheel paths or on lawn edges



Mow tall for a healthier lawn.

Grass cut at 3.5 to 4 inches stays greener, thicker, and naturally resists weeds and heat stress.

How to Fix it:

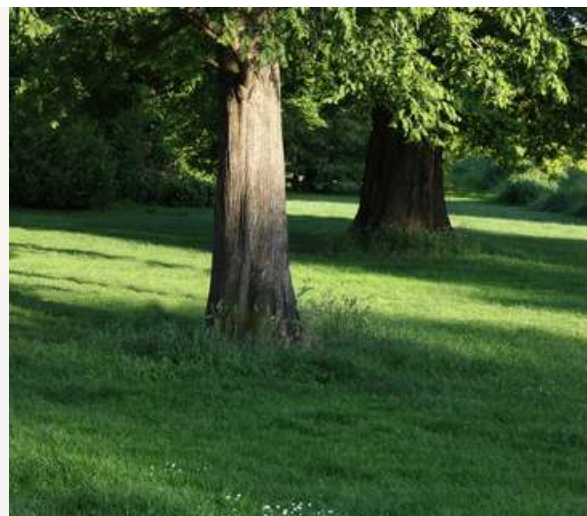
- ✅ Never cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade
- ✅ Keep mower blades sharpened every 4-6 weeks
- ✅ Avoid mowing wet or soft ground to reduce rutting

Excess Shade Starves Grass

Grass needs 4–6 hours of direct sun. Without it, photosynthesis fails and tree roots compete with grass for water and nutrients.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Thin or patchy grass under trees or along fences
- 🔍 May be mossy or damp in early morning
- 🔍 Grows slower than the rest of the lawn



How to Fix it:

- ✅ Prune trees to allow more dappled light
- ✅ Avoid heavy fertilizer. Shaded grass needs less
- ✅ Overseed with shade-tolerant blends (fine fescue)



Don't fight the shade.

If trees block more than 50 percent of sunlight, switch to a fine fescue blend.

Soil Compaction

Foot traffic, mowers, and clay soil all lead to compaction, which restricts air and water movement, making it impossible for grass to grow.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Grass looks thin and stunted in high-traffic areas
- 🔍 Water puddles or runs off instead of soaking in
- 🔍 If you cannot easily push a screwdriver into the ground, your lawn is suffering from severe compaction.



How to Fix it:

- ✅ Aerate annually, especially in fall
- ✅ Topdress with compost after aeration
- ✅ Use stepping stones



Soil harder than concrete cannot grow grass.

No amount of seeding will help until you break up the compaction through aeration or cultivation.

Lawn Disease (Fungal Patches)

Fungal disease thrives in humidity, poor airflow, overwatering, and thatch. Indiana's weather creates ideal conditions for outbreaks.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Rapidly spreading brown patches, often circular
- 🔍 May have gray or dark edges in humid conditions
- 🔍 Blades may look spotted, rust-colored, or slimy



How to Fix it:

- ✓ Identify the fungus correctly
- ✓ Apply appropriate fungicide labeled for your turf type
- ✓ Avoid evening watering and reduce thatch



Overwatering and mowing wet grass cause most lawn fungus.

Prevention, not treatment, is the only effective strategy.

Fertilizer or Chemical Burn

Overapplication or insufficient watering after treatment can burn grass. In hot weather, even properly applied products may scorch turf if not watered in promptly.

What You'll See:

- 🔍 Patches that appear after product application
- 🔍 Edges may look crispy or singed
- 🔍 Often symmetrical or striped (from spreader or sprayer path)



How to Fix it:

- ✓ Water heavily to flush excess salts
- ✓ If turf fails to recover, wait 2–3 weeks and reseed.
- ✓ Always calibrate your spreader or sprayer before using



Use slow-release fertilizer and read the label.

When in doubt, these two habits prevent the vast majority of application errors and turf injury.

What is Overseeding and Why It Matters

Overseeding is a turf reboot. It means spreading new grass seed over your existing lawn to improve thickness, color, and resistance to weeds, drought, and disease, all without tearing up what is already there.

Why is overseeding important?

Cool-season grasses like fescue and bluegrass naturally thin over time due to:



Intense summer heat.



Grub and disease damage.



Years of mowing and foot traffic.



Dull mower blades and declining soil health.

Overseeding replaces what is lost, restoring density and resilience before weeds move in.

Best Seed Types for Indiana Lawns

Choosing the right seed ensures better germination, durability, and long-term success for Indiana lawns.

Grass Type	Pros	Notes
Tall Fescue	Drought-tolerant, dark green, fast germination	Best all-purpose lawn grass for Indiana.
Kentucky Bluegrass	Spreads via rhizomes, lush look	Germinates in 2-3 weeks. Needs good soil.
Fine Fescue	Shade tolerant	Mix with tall fescue for tree areas.

Benefits of Seeding

If your lawn is patchy, thin, or overrun with weeds, you need to overseed.

Overseeding helps:

- ✓ Fills bare spots
- ✓ Crowds out weeds
- ✓ Deepens color and roots
- ✓ Fights disease and drought
- ✓ Adds stronger grass varieties

If you're not overseeding every 1-2 years, your lawn is aging and your weeds are winning.

Best time to Overseed

Mid-August through early-October is the best time to overseed, because:

- ✓ Warm soil speeds germination
- ✓ Cool air reduces stress
- ✓ Fewer weeds compete
- ✓ Natural rainfall supports roots
- ✓ Seedlings establish before winter



Avoid spring seeding.

Crabgrass preventers and summer heat will sabotage new grass.

How to Overseed like a PRO (Step-by-Step)

Overseeding success comes down to execution. This step-by-step guide walks you through the entire process:

Mow Low (One Time Only)

- ✓ Set your mower to 2 inches
- ✓ Bag the clippings
- ✓ Allows sunlight to reach soil and improves seed contact.

After seeding, raise mower height back to 3.5–4 inches.

Remove Thatch and Debris

- ✓ Rake out dead grass and leaves
- ✓ Dethatch if layer exceeds half an inch
- ✓ Loosen bare spots with a garden rake

Aerate

- ✓ Core aeration opens clay soil for seed, air, and water
- ✓ Make extra passes in thin spots for best results



Rent an aerator or hire Blue Duck

Spread the Seed

- ✓ Use a broadcast or drop spreader for even coverage
- ✓ Overlap slightly in thin areas

Recommended Rates:

- 👍 Overseeding: 5–8 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft.
- 👍 Full renovation: 10+ lbs per 1,000 sq. ft.

Always check the label. Each seed mix has its own rate.



You get what you pay for in grass seed.

Cheap seed = more weeds and weaker results.



Look for seed blends labeled "certified" or "NTEP tested"

Avoid mixes with:

- ✗ Annual ryegrass
- ✗ Coated filler seed
- ✗ "Unknown" varieties



Mark your newly seeded lawn and stay off.

Place clear signage and avoid all traffic for at least 3 to 4 weeks to protect fragile seedlings and ensure strong establishment.



Topdress with Compost

- ✓ Apply one-fourth inch of screened compost over seeded area
- ✓ Rake lightly to blend into soil
- ✓ Boosts germination and builds organic matter

Optional but Powerful: Compost locks in moisture, protects seed, adds microbes, and improves clay soil with every application.

Maintain Moisture

- 💧 **Immediately after seeding:** Water for 45-60 mins.
- 💧 **Week 1-2:** Water daily for 15-20 mins each morning.
- 💧 **Weeks 3-4:** Water for 15-20 mins every other morning.
- 💧 **Next 30 days:** Water 1-2 times weekly for 1 hour, aiming for 1-1.5 inches of water weekly.
- 💧 **After 1st mowing:** Water 1-2 times weekly as roots deepen

Hold Off on Mowing Until Ready

- ✓ Wait until grass is 3-3.5 inches tall
- ✓ Mow gently and slowly
- ✓ Bag the clippings the first couple of mows

Fertilize at the Right Time

- ✓ Apply starter fertilizer at seeding
- ✓ Feed again in 2-3 weeks with slow-release formula
- ✓ Skip herbicides until after 3+ mowings

Avoid "weed & feed" products during seeding season, they'll prevent germination.

Soil Rejuvenation after Drought

Drought doesn't just stress your grass, it damages the soil itself.

Drought-Damaged Soil:

- ⊘ Cracked & compacted
- ⊘ Dusty topsoil and slow water absorption
- ⊘ Thinning turf and increased weeds

How to Rebuild Soil After Drought



Aerate

Reopens compacted clay and restores water flow.



Compost Topdressing

Helps soil retain moisture.



Mowing Height

3.5-4 inches during heat.



Watering Wisely

1 to 1.5 inch per week (including rainfall).



Fall Overseeding

Critical for thickening turf after summer damage.



Fall Fertilization

Builds deep roots for next year's stress periods.



Common Overseeding Mistakes


Even the best seed fails when small but critical steps are missed. Avoid these pitfalls to ensure your efforts result in thick, healthy turf.

Mistake	Why It Fails	What to Do Instead
Seeding into thick thatch	Seed never touches soil	Rake out thatch or aerate
Skipping watering	Seedlings dry out and die	Follow the 'Maintain moisture' step earlier
Mowing too soon	Pulls up new grass	Wait for 3"+ growth
Using wrong seed	Uneven color, poor growth	Use fescue/bluegrass blends
Overseeding in spring	Summer heat kills new turf	Seed in mid-August through early-October

EFFECTIVE SLICE SEEDING

This method plants seed directly into the soil at the ideal depth, ensuring thick, full coverage and a lawn that fills in beautifully within a single season.

- ✓ Precision planting for maximum germination.
- ✓ Superior seed-to-soil contact.
- ✓ Establishes thick grass in a single season, perfect for large bare areas.
- ✓ Less invasive than tilling, with faster recovery.
- ✓ Less invasive than tilling, with faster recovery.

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Slice Seeding vs Garden Weasel vs Aeration

There's no single "best" repair method, only the method best suited to your lawn's condition. Understanding the strengths and limitations of each method ensures your repair efforts succeed the first time.

Method	Best For	Cost	Seed-to-Soil Contact	Labor	Blue Duck Recommends
Garden Weasel	Small patches	Low	Good	Manual	Great for pet spots & small areas
Slice Seeding	Medium areas, thin lawns	Medium	Excellent	Moderate	Best for mid-sized repairs
Aeration & Overseeding	Whole lawn	Medium	Very High	Low (pro)	Best overall for lawn recovery
Full Renovation	Severely damaged lawns	High	Excellent	Heavy	Only for extreme cases



Follow-Up Care After Seeding

Congratulations, you've prepped your soil, spread the right seed, and watered it in. But your work isn't over yet. You don't need fancy products, just a clear plan and consistency. Follow this guide to make sure your new turf survives and thrives.

WEEK 1-2: Germination Phase

Primary goal is to keep seedbed constantly moist.

Task	Details
Watering	Water daily for 15-20 mins. in the morning
No traffic	Keep off newly seeded areas
No mowing	Let grass grow untouched
Monitor weather	On hot or windy days, water more frequently

WEEK 3-4: Establishment Phase

Primary goal is to transition to deeper watering as roots grow.

Task	Details
Watering	Water every other day for 15-20 mins. in the morning
No traffic	Light foot traffic only
Mowing	Mow as needed, but keep grass height at 4 inches
Fertilizing	Optional: Apply slow-release fertilizer after the second mowing.



Water immediately if surface crusts or lightens in color.

This is the first sign of drying, which can quickly kill new seedlings.

WEEK 5-6: Deep Rooting Phase

Primary goal is build root mass and train turf to thrive on deep watering.

Task	Details
Watering	Water for 1 hour, 1-2 times weekly
Mowing	Mow weekly at highest setting (3.5-4"). Never scalp new grass
Fertilizing	Apply winterizer fertilizer before dormancy if seeding was done early.
Full use	Lawn can now tolerate normal activity, foot traffic, and pets (gently)



Deep watering trains roots to grow down.

This makes your lawn more drought-resistant next summer.

Post-Seeding Troubleshooting: What's Normal vs. What's Not

Use this guide to separate normal growing pains from issues that need quick correction.

Issue	Normal?	What to Do
Germination is uneven	✔ Yes	Some areas sprout faster than others, give it 3–4 weeks
Mushy soil or pooling	✘ No	Reduce watering length or frequency
Seed washed away after rain	✘ No	Reseed bare zones and cover with straw/peat to hold it in place
Grass looks pale	😞 Sometimes	May indicate starter fertilizer needed, wait until after 2 mowings
Weeds appear	✔ Yes	Don't treat until after 3 mowings, then spot-spray carefully
Still bare after 6 weeks	✘ No	Reseed with extra compost topdressing and adjust watering

What Not to Do After Seeding

Avoid these common mistakes that can undo weeks of progress and kill new grass.

Mistake	Result
Seed dries out in Week 1	Kills seedlings before they root
Mowing too soon	Tears up new grass
Walking on wet new lawn	Compacts soil, causes ruts
Applying herbicides too early	Kills young grass
Letting leaves smother grass	Blocks sun, encourages fungus
Fertilizing too soon	Can burn or overstimulate immature roots



FIRST MOWING TIPS

The first cut is a critical moment for new grass.

- ✔ Wait until grass is at least 3.5 inches tall
- ✔ Mow on a dry day to avoid tearing
- ✔ Set mower to highest setting (3.5–4 inches)
- ✔ Use a sharp blade. Dull blades will rip, not cut
- ✔ Bag clippings for first 1–2 mowings to reduce smothering
- ⚠ Never remove more than one-third of the blade in a single mowing. Cutting too short shocks new roots.



Consistency matters more than perfection in lawn care.

Don't panic if lawn doesn't look perfect after 2 weeks. A thick, healthy lawn takes 6–8 weeks to establish. Stick to the plan, not the calendar, and the results will follow.

Blue Duck's Lawn Rescue Services

Blue Duck specializes in full-scale recovery programs designed specifically for Indiana's clay-heavy soil and cool-season turf. Our rescue approach focuses on both soil health and turf restoration, addressing not just the symptoms but the root causes of decline.



AERATION & OVERSEEDING PACKAGE

Designed to relieve soil compaction and introduce new grass seed for thicker, healthier lawn growth.

- ✓ Commercial-grade aeration
- ✓ Premium seed
- ✓ Starter fertilizer & soil recommendations



SLICE SEEDING SERVICES

Directly places seed into the soil to improve germination in thin lawns without a full renovation.

- ✓ Perfect for thinning lawns not yet needing full renovation.



FULL LAWN RENOVATION

A complete reset for severely damaged lawns that need new soil structure and grass establishment.

For lawns with extensive damage:

- ✓ Soil testing
- ✓ Complete lawn kill
- ✓ Slice seed installation
- ✓ Topdressing



GRUB DAMAGE REPAIR

Restores turf after insect damage by rebuilding soil and reestablishing healthy grass.



SOIL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Long-term solutions focused on improving soil structure, drainage, and nutrient availability.

- ✓ Compost integration
- ✓ Clay soil improvement
- ✓ Water management planning

Blue Duck tailors every rescue plan specifically to Indiana's unique clay soil and precise seasonal windows.



Some lawns require more than a DIY fix.

When soil, weeds, thinning, pests, and drought overlap, professional help is the answer.

Blue Duck combines commercial equipment, premium seed, precision fertilizer, and expert timing for fast, lasting restoration.

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SUMMARY: Now Give It Time to Grow

Restoring a lawn is not an overnight event. It is a season-long process of soil preparation, careful seeding, and patient aftercare.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ **Diagnose before you act.** Walk your lawn and find the real problem before you seed.
- ✓ **Remove barriers first.** Compacted soil, thick thatch, and active weeds will block recovery. Aeration opens the way for new life.
- ✓ **Seed quality matters.** Choose high-quality Turf-Type Tall Fescue for Indiana's climate. Cheap seed delivers weak results and more weeds.
- ✓ **Water consistently.** New seedlings die without moisture. The first two weeks of daily, light watering make or break your recovery.
- ✓ **Patience pays.** A thick lawn takes 6–8 weeks to establish. Don't mow too soon, don't rush to fertilize, and trust the process.
- ✓ **When in doubt, call Blue Duck.** From slice seeding to full renovations, our professional rescue programs combine commercial equipment, expert timing, and guaranteed results.

The final ingredient is time. Let the grass grow, trust the process, and watch your work take root.

Next up...

You've learned to rebuild from the soil up. Now, let's start fresh with a blank canvas. Next, we dive into creating a brand new lawn from seed or sod!



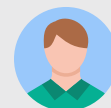
CINDY K.

They did a good job aerating and seeding. Now I'm hauling Sprinklers and doing my rain dance!

Good job on the aeration and seeding. Now could you please make it rain every day? Thank you!

Indianapolis, IN

09/17/2025



ANDY K.

The Blue Duck is for real!

Blue Duck is the best in the business. Nobody is more professional than these guys. So much different that dealing with some of the "big box" lawn care services. My technician, Chase, truly cares about my lawn - not just checking the boxes

Carmel, IN

05/02/2024



A photograph showing a roll of sod being unrolled onto a prepared lawn bed. The sod is dark brown with green grass on top. The lawn bed is dark soil, and there is a stone wall in the background.

CHAPTER 9

fresh start

Starting Right,
Staying Strong



Sod. Seed. Succeed.

The Essential Work of Starting a Lawn

Every great lawn begins with a single decision: **to start fresh.** Whether you're facing a bare yard after new construction, a patch of ground that has never grown grass, or a lawn so damaged that starting over is the only path forward, you stand at the beginning of something promising.

But here is the truth that separates thriving lawns from constant struggles: how you start determines everything.

The choices you make in the first weeks will echo for years, affecting how your lawn handles drought, resists weeds, and survives Indiana's punishing clay and unpredictable seasons. A rushed start leads to a lifetime of chasing problems. A deliberate, informed start builds a lawn that mostly takes care of itself.

Seeding vs. Sodding: Choosing the Right Path

Choosing between seed and sod is one of the first and most important decisions you'll make when starting a new lawn. Both paths can lead to a beautiful, resilient turf, but each comes with its own timeline, budget, labor demands, and long-term considerations.

Seeding

Seeding means planting grass seed directly into prepared soil. It is budget-friendly, offers more grass variety, and develops deep roots over time, but requires patience and consistent watering during establishment.



This chapter is your guide to getting it right the first time. We'll walk you through:

- ✓ Whether to choose seeding or sodding.
- ✓ How to prepare your site and soil properly.
- ✓ Right methods for planting, watering, and feeding.
- ✓ Rookie mistakes that sabotage new lawns.
- ✓ Best grass types for Indiana.
- ✓ How Rock Hound process creates a pro-level seedbed.

How To Seed a Lawn

Step-by-step guide to planting grass seed the right way.

- 1 Till lightly (2–3 inches deep) to loosen soil.
- 2 Rake smooth for an even seedbed.
- 3 Apply starter fertilizer.
- 4 Broadcast seed evenly using a spreader.
- 5 Rake lightly to barely cover seed ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch).
- 6 Roll gently with empty roller for seed-soil contact.
- 7 Follow watering guidelines to maintain moisture.
- 8 Wait until grass is 3.5–4 inches tall. Mow at highest setting.



Sodding

Sodding installs mature, pre-grown grass rolls for an instant lawn. It offers immediate coverage and can be installed most of the year, but costs more and requires careful watering until roots establish in the soil below.



Benefits of Seeding and Sodding

Seeding	Sodding
✓ Lower cost	✓ Looks finished immediately
✓ Deeper root development	✓ Fast usability
✓ More variety options	✓ Immediate erosion control
✓ Easy to repair	✓ Works well in fall

Drawbacks of Seeding and Sodding

Seeding	Sodding
✗ Slower establishment	✗ Higher cost
✗ Vulnerable to erosion	✗ Shallow roots at first
✗ Strict watering schedule	✗ Requires heavy initial watering
✗ No weed control during establishment.	✗ May struggle in clay soil without proper preparation.



Only order sod when you're 100% ready to install.

Don't let sod sit rolled up for more than 12–24 hours, or it will overheat and die. Buy directly from a local grower, not a big box store.

How To Lay Sod

A simple guide to installing a lush, instant lawn the right way.

- 1 Water soil lightly. Damp not soggy.
- 2 Stagger rolls like bricks to avoid long seams.
- 3 Butt edges tightly. No gaps or overlaps.
- 4 Roll immediately to remove air pockets.
- 5 Water thoroughly right after laying.
- 6 Keep moist for 10–14 days; edges must not dry out
- 7 Mow when sod resists a gentle tug (about 2 weeks).
- 8 Fertilize lightly at 3 weeks with slow-release (16-4-8).

Choosing between seeding or sodding

Seeding is best for:

- ✓ Budget matters most
- ✓ Large areas
- ✓ Willing to wait for full results
- ✓ Enjoys the growing process

Sodding is best for:

- ✓ Want an instant lawn
- ✓ Willing to invest more upfront
- ✓ Fighting erosion on slopes
- ✓ Past the ideal seeding window
- ✓ High-visibility / high-traffic

Seeding vs. Sodding: Key Differences

A quick comparison of cost, time, labor, and long-term results to help you choose the best path for your new lawn.

Factor	Seeding	Sodding
Cost	\$	\$\$\$
Root Depth	Deep	Shallow initially
Drought Tolerance	Higher	Lower first season
Water Needs	Moderate	Very high first 2-3 weeks
Weed Pressure	Higher	Lower
Appearance	Slow, natural	Instant lawn
Best Timing	Mid Aug – Mid Oct	April–June or Sept–Oct

Both methods can thrive in Indiana if done with care. Your choice depends on budget, timeline, and patience.

Seeding Methods: Slice and Broadcast

This section compares two common methods, slice seeding and broadcast seeding, helping you understand which approach works best for your lawn's condition and your goals.

Slice seeding (Most effective)

Slice seeding uses a machine to cut grooves in the soil and plant seed directly at the ideal depth. It ensures excellent seed-to-soil contact and is perfect for thickening thin lawns without full tilling.



Water sod daily for the first week, then reduce frequency.

This schedule encourages deep root growth by allowing oxygen to reach the developing root system as the surface begins to dry between waterings.



SLICE SEEDING IS WHAT WE PREFER

This precision technique cuts through clay, places seed at the perfect depth, and consistently outperforms broadcast methods.

CALL US TODAY

 (317) 748-3153



Broadcast seeding

Broadcast seeding spreads seed evenly over the soil surface using a spreader or by hand. Simple and effective for overseeding, but requires consistent watering and good seed-to-soil contact since seed sits on top rather than being planted at depth.



Broadcast vs Slice seeding: Key Differences

A side-by-side look at how these two methods compare.

Factor	Slice Seeding	Broadcast seeding
Cost	\$\$\$	\$
Seed Placement	Planted at ideal depth in soil grooves	Scattered on soil surface
Germination Rate	High (excellent seed-to-soil contact)	Moderate (depends on watering/contact)
Soil Preparation	Minimal (machine cuts through thatch)	May require raking or aeration
Clay Soil Performance	Excellent (bypasses hard surface)	Fair (needs prep to improve contact)
Best For	Thinning lawns, full renovations	Overseeding, large areas
Best Timing	Fall	Fall

Choosing the Best Grass for Indiana

Not all grass is built for Indiana's clay soil, humid summers, and cold winters. This guide helps you select the right cool-season varieties for a thick, resilient, and long-lasting lawn.



EFFECTIVE SLICE SEEDING

This method plants seed directly into the soil at the ideal depth, ensuring thick, full coverage and a lawn that fills in beautifully within a single season.

- ✓ Precision planting for maximum germination.
- ✓ Superior seed-to-soil contact.
- ✓ Establishes thick grass in a single season, perfect for large bare areas.
- ✓ Less invasive than tilling, with faster recovery.
- ✓ Less invasive than tilling, with faster recovery.

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“
A sodded lawn is like adopting a teenager. It looks grown, but it still needs plenty of care.
”



Top Grass Types for Indiana

Here are the top grass types for Indiana lawns, and how to choose the right one for your property.

Turf-Type Tall Fescue (TTTF)

The top choice for Indiana lawns. Deep-rooted, drought-tolerant, and disease-resistant with excellent heat tolerance and dark green color. Thrives in clay soil and handles heavy traffic well.



Key Strengths

- ✓ Deep roots for superior drought resistance
- ✓ Adapts well to Indiana clay and shade
- ✓ Fast germination (7-12 days)
- ✓ Excellent wear tolerance for kids and pets



TTTF is our go-to seed for new lawns and renovations.

We often use custom blends of 2-3 TTTF varieties to maximize disease resistance, color, and overall turf resilience.

Kentucky Bluegrass (KBG)

A lush, dark green grass that spreads via underground rhizomes to self-repair. It creates a dense, carpet-like appearance but has shallow roots, slower germination, and higher maintenance needs than tall fescue.



Key Strengths

Weaknesses

- | | |
|--|--|
| ✓ Spreads on its own over time | ✗ Slow germination (14-21 days) |
| ✓ Excellent color and density | ✗ Needs frequent watering |
| ✓ Great for sunny, well-drained areas, and cold winters. | ✗ Struggles in heavy shade, poor soil, and high temp |



We do not use Kentucky bluegrass at all.

It leads to call backs and disappointed customers.



Perennial Ryegrass

Fast-germinating grass ideal for quick patches and erosion control. It establishes rapidly but lacks drought tolerance and winter hardiness, making it best used in small amounts within blends rather than as a primary lawn grass.



Key Strengths	Weaknesses
✓ Germinates in just 5–7 days	✗ Not heat- or drought-tolerant
✓ Quick cover for erosion-prone spots	✗ Needs frequent watering
✓ Fine-bladed, uniform appearance	✗ Shallow roots = not ideal for long-term use



We do not use Perennial Ryegrass at all.

Germinates fast but lacks deep roots. It often dies out within a few years, leaving thin, patchy lawns.

Fine Fescue

A fine-textured grass ideal for shady, low-traffic areas. Tolerates drought and poor soil but lacks wear resistance. Best used in shade blends rather than as a primary lawn grass in Indiana.



Key Strengths	Weaknesses
✓ Excellent shade tolerance	✗ Thin, delicate blades
✓ Low maintenance needs	✗ Poor wear resistance
✓ Performs well in poor, dry soils	✗ Not heat tolerant in full sun
✓ Fine texture, blends well in mixes	✗ Cannot handle heavy foot traffic



We recommend fine fescue for shady areas.

Thrives in shade, tolerates dry soil, and stays green where other grasses thin out.

Grasses to Avoid in Indiana

These grasses are poorly suited for Indiana weather and soil conditions.

Grass Type	Why to Avoid
Annual Ryegrass	✗ Dies in summer heat
Bermuda Grass	✗ Goes dormant early, often dies in winter
Zoysia Grass	✗ Poor cold tolerance. Turns brown too early in fall
Centipede / St. Augustine	✗ Not cold hardy for Midwest winters. Southern species.

Avoid bags labeled "Quick Green" or "Sunny Mix" that don't list specific seed types.

Cheap blends often contain filler grasses or weeds that will leave you with a weak, patchy lawn and more problems down the road.



Before mowing, tug sod first.

If the grass pulls up, it's not ready.

Quick Comparison Table: Indiana Grass Types

This table makes it easy to see which grass types work best in Indiana lawns.

Grass Type	Germination Time	Shade Tolerance	Drought Resistance	Appearance	Ideal Use
Tall Fescue (TTTF)	7-12 days	✔ Partial shade	✔ High	Thick, lush, dark green	Best for most Indiana lawns
Kentucky Bluegrass	14-21 days	✗ Needs full sun	☹ Moderate	Fine, dense, dark green	Great in blends, not alone
Perennial Ryegrass	5-7 days	☹ Moderate	✗ Low	Fine, uniform	Quick patches & erosion control
Fine Fescue	10-14 days	🏆 Excellent	☹ Moderate	Fine, delicate texture	Shady areas, low-traffic spots



OR LET BLUE DUCK HANDLE IT

Enjoy the time you spend outside by taking the lawn work out of the equation. 📞 (317) 748-3153

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Step-by-Step: How to Seed a New Lawn

Seeding a new lawn isn't just about throwing down seed and hoping for rain. It's a process, and each step is critical to creating the conditions your seed needs to germinate, root, and thrive.



STEP 1: Clear the Site

Remove obstacles and existing growth so seed can reach soil and receive sunlight.

- ✓ Remove rocks, debris, sticks, and weeds from the area
- ✓ Spray herbicide on problem weeds 10–14 days prior.
- ✓ Wait until treated area is fully dead and dry before preparing soil.



Use a rock hound to remove gravel and buried debris from builder backfill.

Hidden debris damages equipment, blocks root growth, and causes unsightly patches.



Step 2: Loosen the Soil (2–3" Deep)

Creates a soft, breathable seedbed that allows roots to grow deep and strong.

- ✓ Loosen top 2–3 inches with tiller or rake
- ✓ Rake smooth for level seedbed, avoid flipping soil
- ✓ Grade the soil so water runs away from the home



This is the ideal time to mix in compost or peat moss to improve soil structure and drainage.



Step 3: Add a Starter Fertilizer

Supplies essential nutrients that support early root development.

- ✓ Apply a balanced starter fertilizer
- ✓ Follow label instructions. Do not overapply



Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers at this stage.

Too much nitrogen will promote fast blade growth before roots are ready.



Step 4: Spread Grass Seed Evenly

Uneven application = patchy lawn.

- ✓ Use broadcast or drop spreader for even coverage
- ✓ Apply at the recommended rate



For extra accuracy, spread half the seed north-south, then the other half east-west



Step 5: Rake Lightly to Cover Seed

Seed needs soil contact but must stay near the surface.

- ✓ Lightly rake to cover seed one-fourth inch deep
- ✓ Do not bury too deeply, or it won't germinate.



Apply a light topdressing of compost, peat moss, or straw after seeding.

Optional, but this helps retain moisture and reduce erosion.



Step 6: Roll the Area (Optional)

Presses seed into the soil to improve germination and reduce washout.

- ✓ Fill roller ¼ with water. Roll entire area once
- ✓ Avoid over-compacting soil



Best for new construction or tilled soil.
Not needed after topdressing or when overseeding post-aeration.



Step 7: Maintain Moisture

Activates germination by allowing seed to absorb moisture right away.

- ✓ Use a fine spray to avoid washing away seed
- ✓ Water immediately for 45-60 minutes
- ✓ Week 1-2: Water daily in the morning for 15-20 minutes



Day 1 watering is the most critical. Don't wait until tomorrow!



Step 9: First Mowing (3.5-4" tall)

Protects young grass while encouraging thicker, stronger growth.

- ✓ Wait until grass reaches 3.5 to 4 inches tall
- ✓ Use a sharp blade and mow on the highest setting



Never cut more than 1/3 of the blade height in a single mowing.



Step 10: Feed Again After 4-6 Weeks

Supports continued growth and helps the new lawn mature and fill in.

- ✓ Apply a balanced or slow-release fertilizer
- ✓ Water in immediately
- ✓ Avoid herbicides for another 2-3 weeks



For fall seedings, apply a winterizer fertilizer.

This high-nitrogen feeding stores energy, strengthens roots, and ensures a strong spring green-up.

Common Seeding Mistakes to Avoid

Most seeding failures are caused by a few avoidable errors.

Mistake	Why It Fails	Fix
Watering too little	Seed dries out	Maintain moisture for first 2 weeks.
Using cheap seed	Low germination, weed filler	Use Turf Type Tall Fescue
Seeding into hard soil	No root growth	Always loosen top 2–3 inches
Fertilizing too early or too hot	Burns seedlings	Use a true starter fertilizer only
Mowing too soon	Uproots seedlings	Wait until grass is tall and rooted
Applying weed killer too soon	Kills new grass	Wait until grass has been mowed 3 times

A new lawn takes 4–8 weeks to establish and 1–2 seasons to reach full density. With proper care, you'll build deep-rooted, weed-resistant turf that thrives for years.

How to Lay Sod Like a PRO

Sod is fast, but not foolproof. Sod is like transplanting thousands of tiny grass plants. If soil isn't ready or roots don't take, your lawn will look great for three weeks, then brown and die. That's why preparation, timing, and follow-up watering are just as important with sod as with seed.



STEP 1: Prep and Grade the Soil

Creates a firm, well-drained base so sod can root quickly and evenly.

- ✓ Clear debris and loosen soil 2–3 inches deep
- ✓ Add compost, smooth, and grade away from buildings
- ✓ Lightly firm the surface without over-compacting

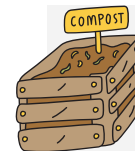
Tools Needed Before Sodding

Having the right tools and materials ready ensures smooth installation and proper sod establishment.



Sod

The star of the show



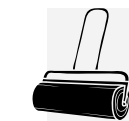
Topsoil or compost

Fills low spots, improves soil



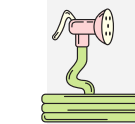
Starter fertilizer

Feeds roots during establishment



Lawn roller

Presses sod into contact



Hose or sprinkler

Critical for first 2–3 weeks



Rake, utility knife

Smoothing and cutting sod rolls



Use a Rock Hound if dealing with new construction or gravel-laced fill dirt.



STEP 2: Apply Starter Fertilizer

Roots need nutrients to grow into the new soil.

- ✓ Apply a starter fertilizer high in phosphorus
- ✓ Use a broadcast spreader to apply evenly
- ✓ Water it lightly before sod installation if soil is very dry



Never skip the starter fertilizer. It's essential for strong rooting.



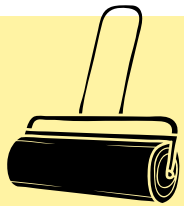
STEP 3: Lay Sod Immediately

Prevents drying and stress by installing sod while it is fresh and viable.

- ✓ Start at a straight edge (like sidewalk or driveway)
- ✓ Lay sod in a brickwork pattern (staggered joints)
- ✓ Butt edges tightly together, but don't overlap
- ✓ Use a sharp knife to trim around corners or curves



Lay sod perpendicular to the slope and use sod staples if needed.



STEP 4: Roll the Lawn

Ensures full sod-to-soil contact and removes air pockets that block rooting.

- ✓ Use a lawn roller filled one-fourth with water
- ✓ Roll across the entire lawn in one direction



Do not over-roll. Just one light pass is enough.



STEP 5: Water Immediately

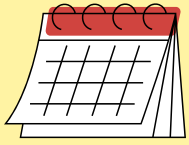
Rehydrates sod and activates root growth within the first critical hours.

- ✓ Water within 30 minutes of finishing installation
- ✓ Soak the sod until water penetrates at least 4–6 inches
- ✓ Lift a corner to check moisture underneath



Day 1 watering is the most critical. Don't wait until tomorrow!

“
The waiting is the hardest part, but every good lawn knows that roots grow in the dark.
 ”



STEP 6: Post-Sod Watering Schedule

Guides roots deeper over time while preventing stress or washout.

Week 1-2: Root Establishment

- ✓ Water daily (or twice daily if hot/dry), constantly moist.
- ✓ Avoid runoff. Use shorter cycles if water puddles

Week 3-4: Root Development

- ✓ Begin watering every other day, longer sessions

Week 5+:

- ✓ Water 2-3x per week, deep soakings.
- ✓ Adjust based on rainfall and temperature



Never skip the starter fertilizer. It's essential for strong rooting.

Sod Aftercare and Maintenance

Proper aftercare ensures strong roots, steady growth, and long-term lawn health.



Wait at least 3-4 weeks before using weed control products



Fertilize again at 6-8 weeks with balanced lawn food (e.g. 20-0-10)



Mow weekly and set it on highest setting



Aerate annually for root health, but not in the same year sod is installed.



Water deeply but less frequently once roots are fully established

Sod offers instant green, but true rooting takes 6-8 weeks. Proper prep, watering, and patience build a deep-rooted, resilient lawn. Skip the steps, and failure comes just as fast.



STEP 7: Mow When Sod Is Ready

Protects new roots while training the lawn to grow thicker and stronger.

- ✓ Wait until grass reaches 3.5 to 4 inches tall
- ✓ Only mow when the lawn is dry and sod is rooted
- ✓ Bag clippings the first few mows

Rookie Mistakes That Kill Sod

Avoid these early missteps that cause sod to dry out, lift, or die.

Mistake	What Happens
✗ Letting sod sit on pallet too long	Sod heats up and dies before install
✗ Skipping soil prep	Roots won't penetrate, sod dries
✗ Not watering on Day 1	Sod curls, browns, and dies in spots
✗ Watering too lightly	Roots never grow deep, dries quickly
✗ Mowing too early	Rips out roots and causes dieback
✗ Fertilizing too soon or too heavy	Burns roots

Site Prep & Soil Protection

Imagine trying to build a house on a cracked foundation. That's what planting grass into compacted, rocky, or poorly graded soil is like. Let's dig in.



STEP 1: Clear and Clean the Area

Rocks and debris interfere with grading, germination, and mowing.

What to remove:

- ✓ Large rocks, bricks, roots, sticks, and concrete debris
- ✓ Old sod, weed clumps, or thatch from previous lawns
- ✓ Trash or gravel mixed into topsoil



If you can, use a rock hound to prepare the soil.

It combs through the top few inches of soil, removing rocks, debris, and clumps while leaving a finely graded seedbed.



STEP 2: Loosen and Improve the Soil

Compacted soil = stunted roots = patchy lawn.

- ✓ Loosen top 2–3 inches with tiller or rake
- ✓ Break up clumps and smooth with a rake
- ✓ Mix in compost or peat moss to improve clay soil



Mixing in even 1 inch of compost per 3–4 inches of soil can dramatically improve root growth.



STEP 3: Grade for Drainage

Poor grading causes soggy turf, root rot, or even basement leaks.

- ✓ Slope soil away from foundations at least 1–2%
- ✓ Fill in low spots or dips where water collects
- ✓ Smooth ruts and sharp slopes to prevent erosion

How to Check Slope

Place a 2x4 and a level across the lawn. A slight downward slope away from the home is ideal. Water should run off gradually, not pool against the foundation.



STEP 4: Address Soil Drainage

Standing water will choke out roots and invite disease.

- ✓ Add organic matter to break up clay
- ✓ Create swales or install French drains for severe issues
- ✓ Avoid heavy equipment that re-compacts soil



Don't skip topsoil reshaping if you've had soggy spots in the past.

This fixes drainage, prevents pooling, and give new grass a healthy start.



STEP 5: Protect the Surface After Seeding or Sodding

After planting, protect the seedbed or sod until roots anchor in.

Seed protection options:

Method	Best For	Notes
Compost layer	High-end or patchy areas	Retains moisture, feeds soil
Erosion blankets	Steep slopes	Biodegradable mesh holds seed in place
Topdressing	Small repairs	One-fourth inch layer of peat, compost, or screened soil



STEP 6: Avoid Prep Mistakes

Highlights errors that undermine soil prep and explains how to prevent them.

Mistake	The Result	What to Do Instead
Skipping debris removal	Roots hit rocks; mower blades damaged	Use Rock Hound or rake thoroughly
Not loosening soil	Seed doesn't take root	Till top 2-3" lightly
Compacting soil with roller	No oxygen = no roots	Light rolling only after seeding/sodding
Using low-quality topsoil	Weeds and poor texture	Always screen or mix with compost
Ignoring drainage	Pooled water kills roots	Grade away from house; add swales



Only use biodegradable mesh if you must.

This will not decompose like manufacturers typically say.



Rock Hound Advantage

A power rake + debris separator that removes rocks and levels soil in one pass.

Benefits:

- ✓ Faster, cleaner prep
- ✓ Removes 95% of rocks and debris from top 2-3 inches
- ✓ Reduces sod lifting or seed washout
- ✓ Prevents uneven lawns and rough mowing
- ✓ Leaves a seed-ready or sod-ready surface



Use rock hound on every major lawn installation.

It's one of the biggest factors in long-term lawn success rate.

Watering & Feeding Schedule for New Lawns

A simple timeline to keep your seed or sod consistently moist, properly fed, and on track for deep rooting and long-term health.

Watering Schedule for Seeded Lawns

A clear timeline for keeping new seed moist from germination through the critical first weeks of root growth.



Light watering during germination is like misting, not puddling.

Use a fine-spray sprinkler and test soil moisture with your finger.

Time	Watering Goal	Frequency	Notes
Day 1	Moisten seedbed, push seed down	Once, deeply, morning	Water immediately after seeding; light spray to avoid washing
Week 1-2	Keep seedbed constantly moist	Daily in the morning	Water daily for 15-20 mins. Avoid pooling
Week 3-4	Shift to deep watering for root growth	Every other day	Water every other day for 15-20 mins in the morning
Next 30 days	Train the roots to develop deeper	1-2 times per week	Water for 1 hour in the morning, 1-2 times weekly

Watering Schedule for Sodded Lawns

Outlines the watering steps needed to help sod root quickly and transition to normal lawn care.

Time	Watering Goal	Frequency	Notes
Day 1	Water deeply immediately after installation	Once	Soak to 6" depth; lift sod corners to check
Week 1-2	Keep sod constantly moist	Daily in the morning	Don't let edges dry
Week 3-4	Encourage deeper rooting	Every other day	Longer water times, less frequent
Week 5-6	Transition to normal schedule	1-2 times weekly	Sod should now be rooted and self-sufficient
Week 7+	Normal watering	1-1.5" per week	Adjust based on rainfall and season

Seeding Fertilizer Schedule

Grass, like any young plant, needs the right nutrients to grow strong but applying the wrong fertilizer or at the wrong time can do serious damage.

Time	Product	Rate	Notes
Day of Seeding	Starter Fertilizer (e.g. 10-10-10)	Light to medium	Focus on phosphorus (P); skip high-nitrogen formulas
Week 4-6	Balanced Fertilizer (e.g. 16-4-8 or 20-0-10)	Medium	Encourages thickening and root branching
Late Fall (Oct-Nov)	Winterizer (high N, low P)	Medium to high	Prepares new grass for winter survival and spring jumpstart

Sod Fertilizer Schedule

A straightforward feeding plan to support rooting, color, and long-term health from installation through the first full growing season.

Time	Product	Rate	Notes
After Installation (Week 2-3)	Starter Fertilizer	Light	Apply only after roots begin to establish
Week 5-6	Balanced Fertilizer	Medium	Use once roots are anchoring and sod resists pulling
Fall	Winterizer (high N, low P)	Medium to high	Helps with root depth and overwintering

Adapting to Weather in Indiana

Indiana weather is unpredictable. You might get a week of rain followed by 90°F heat. Here's how to adapt:

Method	Watering Adjustment	Fertilizer Adjustment
Heavy rain	Skip watering for 1-2 days	Delay fertilizer until soil is drier
High heat	Water earlier in the day	Avoid heavy fertilizing in extreme temps
Cool fall temps	Water less frequently	Use high-nitrogen fall fertilizer
Drought watch	Water deeply but less often	Skip high-N fertilizer; focus on K-rich formulas

Common Watering & Feeding Mistakes

Avoid these watering and feeding errors that often lead to weak or failing lawns.

Mistake	The Result	Solution
Watering too lightly	Roots stay shallow, turf dries quickly	Deep watering = better rooting
Watering at night	Encourages disease & fungus	Water early morning
Overwatering	Causes rot, fungus, and shallow roots	Transition to deep, infrequent watering
Over-fertilizing	Burns new grass or feeds weeds	Use only what's recommended
Fertilizing too soon	Damages seed or sod before roots develop	Wait 2-4 weeks for second feeding
Using wrong fertilizer	Can imbalance nutrients	Use starter for new lawns, not weed & feed

Sustainable Tips for Lawn Health

Simple, eco-friendly practices that build resilient soil, reduce chemical reliance, and keep your lawn thriving season after season.



Compost topdressing

One-fourth inch once per year can transform soil health.



Aerate every Fall

One of the smartest investments you can make in your lawn.



Mow for Soil health

Grass clippings are free fertilizer as it returns nitrogen back to soil.



Avoid Heavy Traffic

Temporary fencing or signage helps protect your investment.



Water deeply, not daily

Train your lawn to be resilient, not dependent.



NO, THIS ISN'T ABOUT RAIN...

Blue Duck serves Indianapolis and all of the greater metro areas with expert **pest control, lawn fertilization services, seeding, lawn maintenance, and more!**

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SUMMARY: Start now, thank yourself later

The best time to plant a lawn was twenty years ago. The second best time is today.

The work you put in now, even when the results aren't visible, is what builds the foundation for everything to come. Start today, stay consistent, and your future self will thank you every time you step outside.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✔ **Soil is everything.** Fix the soil before anything. Great lawns don't grow on bad dirt.
- ✔ **Choose Turf-Type Tall Fescue.** It handles Indiana's conditions better than any other.
- ✔ **Sod is fast, but it's not foolproof.** Preparation, timing, and follow-up watering are important
- ✔ **Watering is make or break.** Seed needs constant moisture for two weeks. Sod needs daily watering until rooted.
- ✔ **Be patient.** A new lawn takes 6–8 weeks to establish and 1–2 seasons to reach full potential.
- ✔ **Let Blue Duck handle it.** We use Slice Seeding, the most effective way, to build new lawns right.

Next up...

You've built your lawn from the ground up. Now, let's keep it thriving for years to come. Next, we dive into Seasonal Care & Long-Term Lawn Planning.

CLAY SOIL LAWN TREATMENT

Key nutrients must be restored before a healthy lawn can grow. Our clay soil fertilization program was developed specifically to address this challenge.

- ✔ **A proprietary clay blend** that combines essential nutrients, and locally sourced organic biochar.
- ✔ **Twice a year.** Spring and fall, timed to when grass absorbs and stores the most nutrients.
- ✔ Best paired with our fertilization and seeding programs for maximum establishment.

The result is a deep green color and dense spread of grass that will make your lawn the most beautiful on the block. And, as a bonus, it will also be easier to maintain.

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153



MARCY M.

Lawn looks Great!!

Chase did a nice job. So far, very happy with Blue Duck 😊 Our lawn looks better than it did before we started using Blue Duck!

Westfield, IN

04/27/2024



CHAPTER 10

easier every year

Master the Seasons,
Master the Lawn



The Waiting is the Growing

Small Seasonal Efforts Create Big Results

There is a secret that every seasoned lawn keeper eventually learns: the work never really ends, but somehow, it gets easier.

The first year feels like a battle. You're learning your soil, fighting weeds you've never seen, and trying to remember when to fertilize, when to aerate, when to water, and when to simply leave the lawn alone. It can be overwhelming.

But here is the truth that changes everything: lawns are cumulative.

Every fall aeration builds on the last. Every season of proper watering trains roots to grow deeper. Every year you feed the soil, you feed the future. The lawn you struggle with today is the lawn that will teach you how to make tomorrow effortless.

We will walk through each season together, not as a list of chores, but as a rhythm. You will learn what to do, when to do it, and why each step makes the next season easier than the last.

Waking Up Your Lawn After Winter

After months of cold, snow, and dormancy, your lawn is ready to stir back to life. But spring is a delicate season for cool-season grasses. Push too hard too soon, and you risk disease and stress. Wait too long, and weeds take over.

Indiana's cool-season grasses do not fully "wake up" until soil temperatures rise above 50°F, so timing is crucial.



This chapter serves as your year-round roadmap. You'll learn:

- ✓ Exactly what to do each season
- ✓ How to prevent weather-related turf problems
- ✓ What tasks matter most at each time of year
- ✓ How to prepare long-term plans for healthier turf



Commit to soil health, seasonal timing, and strategic upgrades.

When you do, your lawn becomes easier to maintain and more impressive with every passing year.

————— “ —————
To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.
————— ” —————



Spring Lawn Care (Late February–May)

Spring lawn care is not about growing new grass. It's about protecting, cleaning up, and preparing the yard for summer.

Early Spring (late Feb–early Apr)

Focuses on cleanup, inspection, and prevention to prepare the lawn for active growth.

Early Spring Tasks

- ✓ Rake out winter debris and lightly fluff matted areas
- ✓ Repair snow mold patches by loosening the soil
- ✓ Inspect for vole trails
- ✓ Check for drainage issues
- ✓ Apply pre-emergent crabgrass control before soil hits 55°F
- ✓ Sharpen mower blades

Mid-Spring (April)

Encourages controlled growth through proper mowing, watering, and targeted fertilization.

Mid-Spring Tasks

- ✓ First mow of the season: 3–3.5 inches
- ✓ Begin deep watering as temperatures increase
- ✓ Second round of pre-emergent (if using split application)
- ✓ Apply spring fertilizer (slow-release nitrogen)
- ✓ Spot-treat broadleaf weeds
- ✓ Monitor for rust fungus or leaf spot

Late Spring (May)

Emphasizes weed prevention and monitoring while avoiding practices that stress soft spring turf.

Late Spring Tasks

- ✓ Avoid overseeding
- ✓ Aeration NOT recommended. Soil too soft
- ✓ Apply Grub Control



Do NOT seed in Spring.

Roots won't establish before summer heat, and pre-emergent blocks germination anyway. Wait for fall.



Do NOT dethatch aggressively in early spring.

Turf is still fragile and may not recover.

Summer Lawn Care (June – August)

Heat, humidity, and drought stress define Indiana summers, and your job is simply to help your lawn survive until cooler weather returns.

Mowing Adjustments

Protects grass from heat stress by maintaining proper height and cutting frequency.

- ✓ Raise mower height to 4–5 inches
- ✓ Mow less frequently during heat waves
- ✓ Never mow more than 1/3 of blade height

Tall grass = deeper, cooler soil

Heat & Drought Management

Reduces summer stress and helps turf survive heat and drought.

- ✓ Reduce mowing during extreme heat
- ✓ Avoid fertilizing during drought
- ✓ Spot-water high-sun areas

Pest Monitoring

Identify pest activity early to prevent root loss and thinning turf.

Watch out for:

- ⚠ Grubs
- ⚠ Chinch bugs
- ⚠ Sod webworms

Watering Adjustments

Encourages deeper roots and reduces disease through proper timing and depth.

- ✓ Water deeply, infrequently: 1–1.5" weekly
- ✓ Water between 6–9 a.m.
- ✓ Use tuna-can test to measure output


Never water at night as it can cause fungal diseases to your grass.

Disease Monitoring

Catch fungal issues early before they spread and cause major damage.

Watch out for:

- ⚠ Brown Patch
- ⚠ Red Thread
- ⚠ Dollar Spot
- ⚠ Rust Fungus



QUICK TIPS

Expect some browning.
It's normal for cool-season lawns in extreme heat. The grass is resting, not dying



GRUB CONTROL GUARANTEED
Blue Duck's highly effective grub control, applied April through June, kills existing grubs and prevents new ones all season.

CALL US TODAY ☎ (317) 748-3153

Fall Lawn Care (September – November)

Fall is the most important season for lawn improvement in Indiana. Cool-season grasses grow most aggressively when temperatures fall and soil is still warm.

Core Aeration (Critical in Indiana)

In Indiana, this is not optional. It is the foundation of lawn health.

- ✓ Relieves compaction
- ✓ Allows oxygen to roots
- ✓ Prepares soil for overseeding

Fall Fertilization

Strengthens roots and helps the lawn recover from summer stress.

- ✓ Builds root reserves
- ✓ Improves spring color
- ✓ Repairs summer stress

Leaf Management

Prevents disease, recycles nutrients, and reduces smothering.

- ✓ Mulch some leaves weekly; remove the remaining 80%
- ✓ Reduce moisture retention and fungus risk
- ✓ Avoid smothering turf

Overseeding

Thickens turf and repairs damage during the ideal growing window.

- ✓ Best timing: Mid August – Mid October
- ✓ Use Turf-Type Tall Fescue seed

Thatch Control

Removes excess buildup so water and nutrients can reach the soil.

Grub Control Repair (if needed)

Late summer grub damage becomes visible in September. Treat + reseed patches quickly.



We use commercial ride-on aerators.

Deeper, more consistent core removal than rental machines can achieve, ensuring maximum soil penetration and lasting results.



Winter Lawn Care (December – February)

Your lawn rests in winter, but how you care for it in late fall determines how well it survives freezing temperatures, snow, and ice.

Final Mow

Sets proper turf height to reduce disease and winter damage.

- ✓ Mow to 2.5–3 inches to prevent snow mold

Prevent Traffic Damage

Protects frozen grass from crushing and crown injury.

- ✓ Avoid walking on frozen or snowy turf
- ✓ Keep sidewalks clear
- ✓ Prevent pets using same path repeatedly

Protect Edges & Pavement Areas

Prevents salt burn and physical damage along hard surfaces.

- ✓ Avoid piling snow on turf
- ✓ Prevent salt damage with calcium chloride products

Prepare Equipment

Ensures tools are ready for spring lawn care.

- ✓ Winterize your irrigation system
- ✓ Store mower properly
- ✓ Sharpen blades for next season

Three Year Roadmap

A great lawn isn't built in a single season. It is the result of consistent, strategic choices year after year.

Year 1: Establish a Healthy Base

Focus on soil health, proper practices, and fixing existing problems.

- ✓ Soil testing
- ✓ Aeration + overseeding
- ✓ Schedule mowing & watering
- ✓ Correct weed/pest issues

Year 2: Strengthen the Root System

Build deeper roots and resilience through better soil and smarter watering.

- ✓ Add compost topdressing
- ✓ Improve irrigation patterns
- ✓ Focus on summer care
- ✓ Aeration + overseeding

Year 3: Optimize Lawn Appearance

Refine aesthetics and efficiency once the lawn is healthy and established.

- ✓ Edge landscape beds
- ✓ Consider irrigation upgrades
- ✓ Aeration + overseeding





MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

DECEMBER							
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 5	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

JANUARY							
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1				█	█	█	█
WEEK 2	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 3	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 4	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WEEK 5	█	█	█	█	█	█	█



WINTER LAWN CARE

DEC-FEB

Winter care is simple but essential. A well-prepared winter lawn wakes up cleaner, healthier, and ready to grow when temperatures rise.

TASKS



Avoid walking on frozen or snowy turf.



Avoid piling snow on turf.



Sharpen blades for next season.



Plan spring projects



The best lawn care is the kind you don't have to think about.

That is only possible when you planned for it months ago.





MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5					🔍 🧹	🔍 🧹 🌿	



SPRING LAWN CARE

LATE FEB-MAY

Spring is the time for smart prevention. A well-protected spring lawn transitions into summer with stronger roots, better color, and fewer weeds.

TASKS

- Early cleanup
- Light raking
- Fertilizer & pre-emergent
- Monitor vole trails, snow mold

MARCH

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							🌿
WEEK 2						🌿	
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							
WEEK 6							



Think in seasons, not weeks.






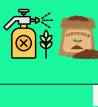










A great lawn is built over years, not weekends. Each season's work lays the foundation for the next.









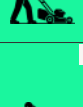












MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

APRIL

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

MAY










	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							



SPRING LAWN CARE

LATE FEB-MAY

TASKS

-  Mowing (3.5-4 inch)
-  Fertilize
-  Pre-emergent / Weed control
-  Begin deep watering (1-1.5" total weekly)
-  Spot-treat weeds
-  Monitor weeds, pests, fungal disease
-  Liquid Aeration (once in Apr-May)
-  Clay-soil program (once in Apr-May)
-  Grub Control (once in early May)
-  Screwdriver test



Don't rush the first mow.

Wait until grass is actively growing and dry. Mowing too early or when wet tears the turf and invites disease.





MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

JUNE

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

JULY

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							



SUMMER LAWN CARE

JUN - AUG

Summer care is less about making your lawn thrive and more about helping it survive.

TASKS

- Mowing at highest setting (4" ideally)**
- Water more (3" total weekly in peak heat)**
- Monitor weeds, pests, heat stress**
- Inspect, calibrate irrigation system**
- Screwdriver test**
- Fertilizer & weed control**
- If grass is dormant (brown), water infrequently**



Know when to call the pros.

If problems persist despite your best efforts, or if you simply want guaranteed results without the work, Blue Duck is one call away.





MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

AUGUST

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2						 	
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4						 	
WEEK 5							
WEEK 6							

SEPTEMBER

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1					 	 	
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							



FALL LAWN CARE

SEPT-NOV

Fall is the season where real lawn improvement happens. If you invest your energy anywhere, invest it in fall, your spring lawn will thank you.

TASKS



Prepare & plan for fall renovation



Mow as needed at highest setting



Mow lawn at 2.5" before aeration



Aeration and overseeding



Fertilizer & weed control



Follow post-seeding watering guidelines



Consistency beats intensity.

A little care at the right time, every time, outperforms heroic efforts applied sporadically.





MONTHLY LAWN CALENDAR

OCTOBER							
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

TASKS

- Leaf mulching**
- Fertilizer & weed control**
- Follow post-seeding watering guidelines**
- Decrease mowing height to 2.5-3" for last mowings**
- Blow out irrigation lines to prevent freeze damage**
- Leaves cleanup. Remove remaining debris before snow**

NOVEMBER							
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							
WEEK 6							



Soil tests are cheap, guesses are expensive.

Test every 2-3 years. Know exactly what your soil needs before you spend money on products it doesn't require.



Don't put the mower away dirty.

After your final cut, clean the underside, sharpen the blade, drain fuel or add stabilizer, and store it properly.

SUMMARY: There are no shortcuts

A great lawn is not built in a season. It is built through the quiet, consistent work of showing up at the right time, again and again, until one day you realize the yard you once struggled with now mostly takes care of itself.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ **Lawns are cumulative.** Every fall aeration builds on the last. Every season of proper watering trains roots to grow deeper.
- ✓ **Spring is for prevention:** Wake the lawn gently. Apply pre-emergent before soil hits 55°F. Feed lightly. Do NOT seed.
- ✓ **Summer is survival mode.** Mow high (3.5–4"), water deeply. Dormancy is normal.
- ✓ **Fall is for fixing.** The most important window of the year. Aerate, overseed, fertilize. Repair the damage from summer and build roots for next year.
- ✓ **Winter is rest and planning.** Stay off frozen grass. Service equipment.
- ✓ **Let Blue Duck handle it.** We take the guesswork out so you can simply enjoy the results.

The months between are not empty. Roots stretch deeper. Soil rebuilds. Your lawn is working even when you cannot see it.

Next up...

You have learned what it takes to build a great lawn. Now let us show you how we make it happen. Next, we dive into the services Blue Duck offers!

“
**Success is the sum
of small efforts,
repeated day in
and day out.**
”



LAWN FERTILIZATION

We do the science and the labor; you get a lush, resilient lawn. Our program includes:

- ✓ Pre-emergent sprays stop weeds before they start.
- ✓ Targeted weed control that stops growth and kills weeds.
- ✓ Slow-release granular fertilization for steady, long-lasting nutrition.
- ✓ Products that are pet and kid-safe when used as directed.

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153

WWW.BLUEDUCKLAWNCARE.COM

**Follow us for more
tips and how we
grow greener lawns
across Indiana.**

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CHAPTER 11

your lawn,
our passion

This is what we do.



Meet Blue Duck

This Is How We Help Indianapolis Lawns Thrive


At Blue Duck Lawn Care, we believe every homeowner deserves a lawn they are proud to come home to, without confusion, guesswork, or wasted weekends.

Our mission is simple: to deliver the highest-quality lawn and pest services across Indianapolis through expert technicians, science-driven programs, premium materials, and clear, reliable communication.

Whether you are restoring a neglected lawn, maintaining a healthy one, or building a brand-new yard from the ground up, Blue Duck has the tools, experience, and commitment to get the job done right.

Core Lawn Care Services

Blue Duck's lawn care services are built specifically for Indiana cool-season grasses and clay-based soils, with programs crafted to support strong root development, crowd out weeds, improve color, and protect your turf all year long.



FERTILIZATION & WEED CONTROL

✓ **Your lawn gets optimum nutrients.**

Blue Duck uses a multi-visit fertilization program that keeps nutrients available throughout the growing season, never too much, never too little.



This final chapter walks you through everything Blue Duck provides:

- ✓ Core lawn treatments
- ✓ Soil-building programs
- ✓ Pest solutions and specialty services
- ✓ Why Homeowners love Blue Duck
- ✓ Blue Duck Lawn Care packages and options
- ✓ How to get started with Blue Duck



THE BLUE DUCK ADVANTAGE



The difference is not just what we do. It is how we do it. We take the guesswork off your shoulders and put guaranteed results in their place.

- 👑 **Premium, commercial-grade products.**
- 🌿 **Licensed technicians.**
- 🎯 **Applications timed to Indiana climate patterns.**
- ✓ **Weed Breakthrough Guarantee:** If weeds return, we come back at no extra cost.





WHY LAWN FERTILIZATION MATTERS

Indiana clay soil doesn't naturally hold nutrients evenly. Without routine feeding, grass becomes thin, pale, and weed-prone. Blue Duck's program maintains consistent nutrition so your lawn can grow thicker and stronger each month.



LAWN FERTILIZATION

There's no better way to take care of your grass and soil than with our lawn fertilization program which includes:

- ✓ Slow-release nitrogen for steady, safe growth
- ✓ Multiple targeted pre-emergents to prevent crabgrass
- ✓ Broadleaf weed treatments
- ✓ Spot treatments during routine visits (at no extra cost)
- ✓ Soil-building additives depending on the program tier



CORE AERATION

✓ **Hard soil doesn't stand a chance.**

Blue Duck uses professional ride-on aerators that pull deep, uniform cores, unlike lightweight rental machines that often "bounce" off hard clay.



LIQUID AERATION

🧪 **Ends compaction cleanly & quietly.**

Also known as Bio-Liquid Soil Conditioning. A deeper level of soil improvement beyond mechanical aeration.

Liquid Aeration is a bio-active blend of

- ✓ Humic acid
- ✓ Bio-char
- ✓ Sea kelp
- ✓ Surfactants that loosen dense clay
- ✓ Microbial activators



Liquid Aeration Benefits

- ✓ Penetrates deep clay
- ✓ Breaks up compaction over time
- ✓ Boosts water & nutrient uptake
- ✓ Improves root development



Blue Duck's commercial ride-on aerator in action.

Core Aeration Benefits

- ✓ Reduces compaction
- ✓ Boosts airflow and drainage
- ✓ Deepens root growth
- ✓ Enhances overseeding success





CLAY SOIL RECOVERY PROGRAM

 **Helping the soil reach its potential.**

Our Clay Soil Program is a multi-step soil-improvement system designed to rebuild what construction removed.

Program includes:

- ✓ Multiple liquid aeration treatments, but on "Steriods"
- ✓ Organic soil conditioners and enzymes
- ✓ Healthy bacteria



SEEDING SERVICES

 **We turn patchy into plush.**

Whether patch-repairing or establishing a full lawn, Blue Duck offers professional-grade seeding methods.

Seeding options:

- ✓ **Slice Seeding:** Cuts grooves + drops seed at perfect depth
- ✓ **Broadcast Seeding:** Great for large areas
- ✓ **Drop Seeding:** Precision around edges and beds
- ✓ **Overseeding:** Thickens existing turf
- ✓ **Full Renovation Seeding:** Starts the lawn fresh

Pest Control & Insect Management

Indiana lawns face a variety of pests above and below the soil surface. Blue Duck offers targeted programs that protect both your yard and your family.

Clay Soil Program Benefits

- ✓ Breaks up dense clay
- ✓ Improves air and water flow
- ✓ Reduces standing water
- ✓ Strengthens turf against drought
- ✓ Encourages deeper rooting



We use elite Turf-Type Tall Fescue blends designed for:

- ✓ Deep roots
- ✓ Heat tolerance
- ✓ Beautiful dark color
- ✓ Disease resistance



PEST CONTROL SERVICES PRICES

View our service options and competitive starting rates per treatment below.

Service	Price
Perimeter Pest Control	\$45
Pest Control	\$45
Mosquito Control	\$69
Grub Control	\$49.50
Mole Control	\$150
Vole Control	\$150
Pet Lover Program	\$45





GRUB CONTROL GUARANTEED

We kill grubs. We guarantee it.

Grubs are among the most destructive lawn pests in Indiana. We stop them before they destroy your lawn, and if damage still occurs, we repair it at no cost to you.

Why Grubs are a problem:

- They feed on roots
- Cause sudden brown patches
- Attract moles, skunks & raccoons



MOSQUITO CONTROL

We protect your time outside.

Our targeted treatments eliminate mosquitoes so you can enjoy your outdoor space without the swatting.



PERIMETER PEST CONTROL

Not one pest gets past us.

Blue Duck creates a protective barrier around your home, keeping ants, spiders, and crawling insects outside where they belong.

Blue Duck applies a protective barrier around:

- The foundation
- Doors
- Cracks and entry points
- Windows

Blue Duck's Grub Guarantee

If grub damage occurs after our preventive treatment, we will:

- Retreat the lawn
- Repair the damage
- Reseed affected areas

At no additional cost.

Mosquito control service includes:

- Yard-wide barrier spray
- Larvicide treatments
- Reduced mosquito population
- Safe for people and pets

Perimeter protection against:

- Ants
- Spiders
- Roaches
- Beetles
- Centipedes



Scan the QR code to explore all of Blue Duck's comprehensive lawn care services.





FULL YARD PEST CONTROL

Pests don't get a single square foot.

Complete protection for your entire property. We target insects where they live, breed, and hide so your yard stays comfortable and pest-free all season.

Full yard protection against:

- ✓ Chinch bugs
- ✓ Armyworms
- ✓ Sod webworms
- ✓ Ticks & fleas



MOLE AND VOLE CONTROL

They won't know what hit them.

We target moles and voles at the source, eliminating damage and protecting your turf from root-level destruction.

Blue Duck approach:

- ✓ Identify whether it's moles or voles
- ✓ Bait active tunnels

Why Homeowners Love Blue Duck

We take the stress out of lawn care. No guessing. No weekend chores. No store-bought products that don't deliver. Just a lush, healthy lawn you can actually enjoy, backed by a team that shows up on time and stands behind every treatment.



THE LOCAL ADVANTAGE

We are Indiana born, Indiana based, and Indiana focused. Our team knows local soil, local weather, and local lawn challenges because we live here too.

Blue Duck is built for:

- 🎯 Heavy clay soils
- 🎯 Hot, humid summers
- 🎯 Cool-season grasses
- 🎯 Freeze-thaw cycles
- 🎯 Weed and pest pressure

Because of this, Blue Duck services outperform "national chain" programs that use one-size-fits-all formulas.



Blue Duck Lawn Care

33m ·

We are a local, family-owned operation



Love




Comment



Share

- ✓ No corporate chains.
- ✓ No subcontracted crews.
- ✓ No out-of-state call centers.
- ✓ Your technicians live in the same communities they serve, and they take pride in your results.





Blue Duck Lawn Care
@blueducklawn

Our scheduling is reliable and consistent.

9:00 AM · 20 Feb 2026

🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 📊 📌 ⬆️

You will never wonder when we are coming. Just lawn care that shows up when we say we will.

- ✓ Email reminders
- ✓ No "mystery arrival windows"
- ✓ Easy communication





We are trained and licensed Turf professionals.

We are not seasonal hires with a sprayer and a truck. We understand Indiana soil, seasonal timing, and the science behind every treatment.

We show up ready to diagnose, adapt, and deliver results, not just follow a checklist because Blue Duck invests heavily in:

- ✓ Turf science education
- ✓ Equipment certification
- ✓ Customer service skills
- ✓ Safety training



Blue Duck Lawn Care
33m · 🌐


Your satisfaction is our top priority. 😊

❤️ 🗨️

❤️ Love 🗨️ Comment ➦ Share

We do not consider a job complete until you are happy with the results. If something does not look right, we fix it.

- ✓ No hassle.
- ✓ No arguing.
- ✓ Just service.



Blue Duck Lawn Care
@blueducklawn

**Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall...
All you've got to do is call. 😊**

7:40 AM · 20 Feb 2026

🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 📊 📌 ⬆️

Our love language is communication. We keep you in the loop without cluttering your inbox. And when you have a question, a real person answers, not an automated menu.

- ✓ Email updates
- ✓ Visit summaries
- ✓ Notes explaining what was done



Blue Duck Service Packages & Options

Every lawn is different. That is why we offer flexible service packages designed to match your goals, your budget, and your lawn's specific needs.



HAPPY LAWN

A proven package for your best lawn yet. Includes:

- ✓ Complete lawn analysis
- ✓ Service warranty
- ✓ 6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan
- ✓ Pre-Emergent Grub Control
- ✓ 1 Free Surface Pest Treatments

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153

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HAPPY LAWN PLUS+

A proven package for your best lawn yet plus performance enhancing services:

- ✓ Complete lawn analysis
- ✓ Service warranty
- ✓ 6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan
- ✓ Pre-Emergent Grub Control
- ✓ 1 Free Surface Pest Treatments
- + Mechanical aeration and overseeding

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153

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HAPPY LAWN PRO

This package combines every essential treatment into a single, powerful plan for your healthiest, most resilient lawn.

- ✓ Complete lawn analysis
- ✓ Service warranty
- ✓ 6-Application of Fertilizer & Weed Plan
- ✓ Pre-Emergent Grub Control
- ✓ 1 Free Surface Pest Treatments
- ✓ Mechanical aeration and overseeding
- 👑 Liquid aeration and Spring soil conditioning

CALL US TODAY
☎ (317) 748-3153

WWW.BLUEDUCKLAWNCARE.COM



LAWN CARE SERVICES PRICES

View our service options and competitive starting rates per treatment below.

Service	Price
Fertilization	\$49.50
Aeration	\$125
Liquid Aeration	\$147
Clay Soil Program	\$147
Slice Seeding	\$299

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Enhance your lawn care plan with targeted extras.

- + Soil Testing
- + Mosquito control
- + Pet Lover Program (Flea & Tick Treatments)
- + Liquid aeration boost
- + Soil amendment enhancements
- + Lawn recovery & rescue programs



PAMELA G.

Respectful, friendly, accommodating!

Very satisfactory service from a professional lawn care service. Beautiful results. Thank you!

Indianapolis, IN

05/23/2025



SUMMARY: You've got a friend in us

A great lawn is not built by products alone. It is built by people who care, who show up, and who treat the lawn like their own. At Blue Duck, we are those people.

If you remember only a few things from this chapter, let it be these:

- ✓ **We are local.** Indiana born, Indiana based, and Indiana focused.
- ✓ **We guarantee our work.** If something doesn't look right, we fix it. No hassle, just service.
- ✓ **We use commercial-grade of everything.** Professional equipment. Premium products. Trained and licensed technicians.
- ✓ **You can customize your care.** From the Happy Lawn Package to full-soil recovery, plus add-ons.
- ✓ **We make it simple.** Email reminders. On-time arrivals. Clear communication.
- ✓ **You have a friend in us.** When you call Blue Duck, you reach real people who care about your results.

This is not just a business. It is a promise.

To show up prepared. To treat your property with respect. To deliver a lawn you can finally enjoy without the stress.



Thank you for trusting us with your lawn. We will take care of it like our own. 🤍

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH BLUE DUCK


Simple. Fast. Clear.



Request a Free Estimate

Quick & convenient scheduling online or by phone, with no obligation.

 www.blueducklawn.com

 **CALL US (317) 748-3153**

Lawn Evaluation

We start by understanding your lawn. Our technician identifies exactly what your lawn needs.

They assess:

- ✓ Soil compaction
- ✓ Turf health
- ✓ Weed & pest pressure
- ✓ Shade patterns
- ✓ Irrigation habits

Recommended Program

Based on your lawn evaluation, we build a customized treatment plan tailored to your goals, your budget, and your lawn's specific needs.

First Treatment Begins

Once you approve your plan, we schedule our first treatment and we get to work straight on it.

Review & Adjust

Ongoing monitoring adjusts your program as your lawn and the seasons change.

