



Glossary of Lawn Terms

AERATE: Loosen compacted soil for friable penetration of water, air, and nutrients. Aeration is done either by punching holes into the soil (for sandy soils), removing plugs of soil (for clay soils), or by liquid products formulated to serve the same purpose.

ACID SOIL: Soil with pH level less than 7.0

ALKALINE SOIL: Soil with pH level more than 7.0

BROADLEAF: A general term referring to non-grass plants growing in a lawn, which are often considered to be weeds. Examples include dandelion and white clover.

COMPACTED SOIL: Hard, impenetrable soil usually due to neglect, excessive traffic, and/or improper cultivation.

DISEASE: A pathogen that infects plants, the effects of which result in abnormal growth, anomalous appearance, damage, or death to the grass plants.

DORMANCY: The survival mechanism of the grass plants in reaction to unfavorable environmental conditions, such as extreme temperatures and drought.

FERTILIZER: Organic or synthetic supplement applied to the lawn for nutritional purposes. Fertilizers are sold in liquid, granular, or pelletized forms.

FUNGICIDE: A pesticide formulated to control, suppress, or eradicate fungal disease.

GERMINATE: The developmental stage from seed to sprout, the point at which plant parts initially break the seed surface.

HERBICIDE: A dry or liquid pesticide substance formulated to kill insects.

INSECTICIDE: A dry or liquid pesticide substance formulated to kill insects.

LIME: An amendment used to increase alkalinity. When soil test reveals high acidity, lime is recommended to raise the soil pH level and bring into balance.

MACRONUTRIENTS: The primary nutrients grass plants need - Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium.

NITROGEN: One of the 17 elements necessary for plant growth and production. Among the 17, nitrogen is one of the three macronutrients supplied in balanced fertilization. Of the three macronutrients, nitrogen is the first major element. It is essential for overall plant health and is specifically responsible for rich green color and strong root system. Nitrogen is represented on fertilizer packages as the "N" ratio value.

PATHOGEN: An agent that causes disease, especially a living microorganism such as a bacterium or fungus.

PESTICIDES: A substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, controlling, or destroying a pest. Weeds, insects, rodents, and diseases are all considered pests even though their individual remedies have reference of their own, such as herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide.

pH: Measurement of the soil's acidity and alkalinity. Balance directly affects soil's capacity for nutrient intake.

PHOSPHORUS: One of the 17 elements necessary for plant growth and production. Among the 17, phosphorus is one of the three macronutrients supplied in balanced fertilization. Of the three macronutrients, phosphorus is the second major element. Phosphorus is essential for overall plant health and is specially responsible for strong roots, flower yields, and aids in disease resistance. Phosphorus is represented as the "P" on fertilizer packages.

POST EMERGENT: A herbicide formulated to be applied after weeds appear in the lawn in order to control or eradicate them.

POTASSIUM: One of the three main macronutrients supplied in balanced fertilization. Potassium is the third major element and is essential for overall strong plant health. Potassium is specifically responsible for disease resistance, strengthening plant walls, preventing water loss, improving drought resistance, and protecting against cold weather. Potassium is represented as the "K" on fertilizer packages.

PRE EMERGENT: A herbicide formulated to be applied before weeds appear to prevent growth and development of weeds.

RHIZOME: A horizontal stem or runner that forms new plants. Normally, rhizomes are formed just below the soil surface.

SEDGE: Any of numerous grasslike plants of the family Cyperaceae, having solid stems, leaves in three vertical rows, and spikelets of inconspicuous flowers, with each flower subtended by a scalelike bract.

SUSCEPTIBLE HOST: A plant that is exposed to infectious disease.

THATCH: A layer of plant debris, composed of living and dead parts that accumulates between the soil and the grass blades and prevents penetration of moisture, air, and nutrients to the grass roots.