



Topdressing

Healthy lawns need healthy soil.

**Most homeowners do not have enough good soil to grow a healthy lawn.
Topdressing with the right compost is the solution!**

Why use compost?

- Contains organic matter and nutrients.
- Improves soil structure and health (lawns need 6-inches of good soil to thrive.)
- Enhances root development.
- Reduces need for fertilizers.
- Increases soil's ability to retain water.



Just a few easy steps:

1. Have the compost delivered to your home and dumped in a convenient location. (Make sure the dump truck does not drive on the lawn!)
2. You'll need a wheel barrow, metal rake and lawn rake.
3. Dump wheel barrow loads of compost all over the lawn, 3-4 feet apart.
4. Push and fan out these piles with the flat end of a metal rake.
5. Lightly rake, fanning out with the lawn rake so the grass blades poke through.

Most lawn care professionals will topdress for you.

Important note:

Topdressing is not recommended if you live on a waterbody.

When is the best time?

- Late summer or late spring.
- If you have very little topsoil: twice a year for 1-2 years.
- If you have 6-inches of quality soil there is no need to topdress.
- If aerating: topdress afterward.
- Dry weather is always best. If the compost is dry and lightweight, your job is much easier.

Know how much you need

- 1/4 to 3/8 inch layer of compost spread over the lawn.
- 1,000 square foot area needs roughly .75 cubic yards of compost.

Find the right compost

- Find finished compost: it should smell earthy and sweet and **should not** be steaming hot.
- Know what it's made of: many local sources are organic and contain shellfish. They are great for lawns and gardens.



Next steps:

- Overseed with a low maintenance grass seed.
- Apply compost tea.

