



Ultimate Spring Renovation Guide

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Spring is the time when you might hear your friends or neighbours talking about doing a 'lawn reno' or 'spring renovation'. It's a common practice in lawn care in order to rejuvenate your lawn and soil and to tackle any problems with thatch or compaction that may have developed over winter.

It's not something you have to do, however is a great option for an established lawn that may not be performing its best.

We recommend to consider a spring renovation once the weather is consistently warm and your lawn is actively growing - around mid October for us in South Australia.

The extent and frequency of your lawn renovation will depend on the lawn variety that you have. Kikuyus and Couches (including TifTuf) are very responsive to lawn renovations and therefore it can be done quite aggressively. Buffalos such as Sir Walter DNA Certified can not repair from underground rhizomes, so you have to be a bit more careful during the dethatching stage of your renovation.



Preparation ▶

Preparation

To start your lawn renovation, you need to ensure that your area is completely free of weeds and debris. Time to rake up any leftover leaves and things that have accumulated over autumn and winter. Plus, if you still have some weeds taking hold in your lawn, it's best to treat these first so that your lawn can really start over. Most weeds you can pull by hand or with a weed puller tool.



However, if you have a large amount of weeds or stubborn weeds such as winter grass, you might have to consider spraying a selective herbicide to control them. We recommend quality brands such as Lawn Solution Australia, Amgrow and Syngenta. If you're doing this prep at the beginning of spring before your reno next month, you can apply a foliar fertiliser such as **Exceed** now to get your lawn growing before reno time.

Our recommended preparation products

Please ensure that any product you use is suitable for your lawn variety.



All Purpose Weed Control



Winter Grass Killer



Monument



Exceed Fertiliser

[Shop range of weed control products here](#)



Dethatch

Dethatch

What is thatch?

You may have noticed your lawn has a build-up of dead organic matter, excessive roots and stems that have developed within the profile of your grass. This is a natural process caused by your lawn producing more organic matter than what can be broken down. Some turf varieties will thatch more than others and overtime the height of your lawn can increase and can become quite unsightly.

Dethatching will help to remove this layer so that air and nutrients are able to reach your soil base and can more effectively feed your lawn. Reducing thatch also prevents water log in your roots and allows proper drainage, this will help to prevent the risk of fungal issues.



How to dethatch your lawn

The easiest way to dethatch your lawn without any specialised tools is to simply **mow low**. Grab your mower and reduce the height of the cutting blade right the way down. Mow your lawn low enough that you can reach into the thatch layer. For some lawn varieties such as kikuyu and couch, you can even scarify your lawn right down to the dirt. This is not suitable for Sir Walter DNA Certified as it grows from its stolons above the ground and therefore needs you to leave some on top to regenerate from. If you have Sir Walter, mow low but not all the way to the soil. It is not recommended to detathch cool season lawns such as RTF Tall Fescue.

You can also hire or purchase **specialised dethatching machines** that make light work of removing the thatch layer. This can be a good option if you have a large lawn, or if the thatch layer is especially thick and hasn't been tended to for a number of years.

After dethatching your lawn, it will be looking in pretty poor shape. Make sure you rake up all the loosened debris and if you aren't going to continue your renovation with an aeration, ensure to still fertilise your lawn to help with faster repair.

Aerate



Aerate

Your grass needs space, below ground, to take in air, nutrients and water. Your lawns' roots need to 'breathe'.



Aerating is the practice of perforation of the soil to allow these essential nutrients to penetrate the grass roots. It helps to protect your lawn against a lot of common problems due to compaction: drainage issues, bare patches, weeds, dryness and fungal diseases.

How to aerate your lawn

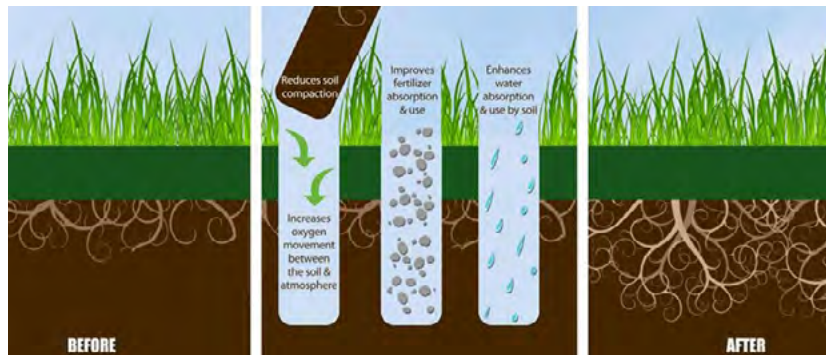
There are a few different ways you can aerate your lawn and the size and level of compaction of the area will help to choose which will be most suitable.

A smaller area of lawn can be aerated manually with aerating sandals or a sturdy garden fork. Simply insert the fork into the lawn and wriggle it back and forth to fracture the soil profile. Aim for a spacing between the holes of around 8 – 10cm. You may need to go over the area twice in a different direction each time in order to achieve adequate aeration.

For larger areas, you can hire specialised aerators. If your area is heavily compacted, you might need to consider core aeration. Unlike regular aeration, where solid tines simply punch holes in the ground, **core aeration** removes a plug of soil from your lawn at the same time leaving a larger hole and surface area for absorption of nutrients.



[Buy now](#)



[Fertilise](#)



Fertilise & Soil Conditioning

The lawn renovation process can be quite stressful on your lawn and therefore it needs a replenish of nutrients to help it repair and regrow. We recommend to apply a slow release granular fertiliser for a steady supply of essential nutrients throughout the rest of the season.



Buy now



Buy now



Buy now



Buy now

Now is also a good time to address any underlying issues in your soil and apply gypsum, wetting agents and/or seaweed extracts.

Gypsum

If you have a clay base, applying Gypsum will help to break up the clay and help reduce further compaction.

Wetting agents

A soil wetter such as [Lawn Soaker](#) will further aid in water penetration of hydrophobic soils and help with water retention in the soil too - essential for the upcoming warmer months.

Seaweed

Seaweed-based products such as [Lawn Kelper](#) and [Gogo Juice](#) stimulate healthy growth, quick green-up and aid in stress recovery.



Topdress



Top dress

Topdressing is usually added at the end of a lawn renovation to help correct poor soil condition or to fill in low spots and correct uneven areas in the lawn. It also helps your now scalped lawn to grow back level and even.



We recommend to use a clean washed sand to topdress such as river sand or a top dressing soil mix. If your soil underneath is already sandy, you can use a soil with a higher proportion of organic material to help improve your soil profile.

How to top dress

Spread your mix of soil evenly over the desired area, then rake, level lawn or broom it into the lawn profile.

Top dressing Tips

- Work out the size of your lawn before you buy; as a general guide a 20kg bag will be enough to top dress 1-2m². To calculate topdress at a 10mm depth: *multiply your lawn area in m² x 0.01 = m³ required*
For example a 60m² lawn will need 0.6m³ soil to topdress at 10mm depth.
- Never top dress more than 1cm in a single application, making sure the grass tips are still exposed.
- Avoid top dressing if rain is predicted as the wet weather will make the dressing difficult to deal with and make levelling troublesome.
- Rake in a figure eight motion so that the top dressing mixture is spread evenly.



Water



Water!

After all that, just like you, your lawn is probably thirsty. Give your lawn a long deep water immediately after topdressing and ensure to continue to water it regularly (2 short waters a day) to keep it damp over the first couple of weeks. Once you notice new growth, you can start to slowly back off your watering again until you are back into your normal regime of one deep water once a week with top ups in warmer weather.

When your new lawn achieves a desirable height, ensure to start mowing again. A regular mowing regime will encourage thick lateral growth for a healthy and strong lawn overall. If your mowing becomes too much, you can use a plant growth regulator such as **Primo Maxx** in summer (ONLY once your lawn has fully recovered from renovation). PGRs slow down the growth of your lawn while promoting denser, healthier turf growth.



Get in touch!

If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you!

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