

How to Renovate Your Lawn

Freshening up a sun scorched, weed infested lawn, which is pitted with humps and hollows will inject new life into your garden. It may seem a daunting task but when broken down, is easily achievable in three steps:



Use Yates Hydrocotyle Killer to kill hydrocotyle

Mowing and maintenance tips

- Never remove more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of leaf growth in any one mowing
- Don't mow wet or very dry lawn
- Clean and sharpen mower blades frequently
- Set mower blades to the highest setting over summer, lowest in winter
- Compost lawn clippings
- Apply lawn fertiliser and weed spray every spring and autumn
- Rake out thatch in old lawns (build up of old dried roots at base of grass)
- Spike lawns with a garden fork, every 2 – 3 years, to improve drainage and aerate lawn

Step one: weed and feed

Ridding the lawn of weeds and giving it a good feed is the first step to bringing back a lush green carpet of grass you will be proud of and enjoy walking on – especially in bare feet. Weeds not only suppress grass growth, they also look unsightly! Hand weeding a lawn is an option, but laborious and often unsuccessful.

Far easier and more effective is to spray the entire lawn area with a specific lawn weed spray. This will kill off perennial weeds such as clover, prickle (Onehunga) weed, dandelions and daisies. Use Yates Hydrocotyle Killer to kill hydrocotyle (see inset). After spraying, feed the lawn with a specialised lawn food to boost growth and strengthen grass so it is better able to resist weeds and cold winter weather. Weeds will take up to two weeks to die off, after which time you can move onto the next step of renovation...

Step two: aerate and level

Walking over an uneven lawn is most uncomfortable. Improving those irksome humps and hollows is therefore the next step to your green paradise. After weeds have died back, mark out the humps with a cross and the hollows with a circle of spray paint. Either slice off the humps and fill in the hollows with the extracted soil, or use Daltons Premium Lawn Soil to fill in the hollows up to the level of the humps. Compact all loose soil thoroughly by trampling and level it off with a straight edge or long length of timber.

Step three: sow bare patches

Select a lawn seed that suits the purpose, i.e. Tui Superstrike 'Shady Places' for shaded areas or 'Hard Wearing' for children's play areas. Sow seed over bare patches of compacted soil, according to the recommended quantity, and rake lightly to cover the seed. Water daily to encourage quick establishment – unless it rains! Most seed these days is coated to guard against birds and fungal infection and should germinate within a week in autumn weather.