

Moss in turf areas

Moss is an opportunistic plant; it persists in areas where turf is already thin and weak. It will not survive in a thick vigorous lawn. The contributing factors are:

- A moisture retention problem (drainage)
- Compacted soil (Aeration needed)
- Shade (Trim tree canopy)
- Acidic soils

To eradicate moss all the parameters must be addressed and corrected. If any of these factors are limiting turf growth moss will continue to thrive. The first step in this process is a soil test.



If you really want to eradicate moss from your lawn, then you have to find out the actual problem that is causing it, rather than just treating it. The reasons are various, but not too difficult to isolate.

They can be one or several of the causes outlined below

- Water logging - in winter or summer.
- Poor feeding regime - usually denoted by light green grass.
- Acid soil - carry out a test.
- Shaded Lawns - overhanging trees or large shrubs.
- Mowing lawns too close - a common cause, for it weakens the grass - allowing moss to take hold
- Drought - if severe enough to harm or kill the grass. Not to be confused with a bit of summer-browning
- Sandy - free-draining soils. This can weaken the grass and allow moss to take over. Some mosses are quite happy in these conditions.
- Compaction - continued use by children and pets with no remedial attention by way of aeration in the Autumn.

Generally, lawns that are well maintained - which includes being well fed, cut properly, aerated and not allowed to develop thatch - then the problems which result in moss will not occur in the first place. Moss can rarely compete with strong growing grass in lawns. It is allowed to develop and take a hold when the grass growth is weak. Get the grasses growing properly and the likelihood is that your lawn will not suffer from moss problems.