



Welcome back!
Day Two

Quick Review #1

- Natural or low-input lawn care
 - Develop proper soil biology
 - Protect beneficial soil organisms by choosing inputs carefully
- Healthy soil profile for lawns
 - 40-45% minerals, 25% air, 25% water, 5-10% organic matter
 - Organic matter, beneficial soil microbes are key to fighting disease and insect pests



Quick Review #2

- Soil testing
 - More than one test may be needed
 - Take 7-10 random samples from 3'4" depth, combine to equal 1 dry cup
 - Ask for standard plus OM %, organic recommendations
- Amend
 - PH to 6.5 - 7.0; lime can take 100 days to affect pH
 - Compost is the best source of OM and beneficial microbes



Quick Review #3

- Lawn assessment
 - Each site is unique with microclimates: sun/shade, drainage, soil types, competition from trees, etc.
 - Where's turf doing well, not so well and why?
- Mowing
 - Keep blades sharp all season
 - Never cut more than 1/3 of the blade
 - Leave clippings on lawn except:
 - First Spring cut to 2" and remove clippings
 - Gradually increase to 3 to 3.5 to 4" at mid-Summer, gradually back to 2" for final cut



Quick Review #4

- Watering
 - Overwatering encourages diseases
 - 1 to 2" should be plenty for well-established turf, calibrate heads
 - Water thoroughly and deeply
 - Allow blades to dry – don't water at night or late in day
- Compaction and Aeration
 - Aerate when turf is actively growing



Quick Review #5

- Thatch
 - Dead grass and roots at soil surface
 - Earthworms, compost top dressing corrects excessive thatch
- Overseeding
 - Rake well, aerate, de-thatch first if needed
 - Spread $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " compost with or over
 - Seed to soil contact key – tamp lightly
 - Keep seed moist not soaked
 - Fall best time to reseed, only time for new construction



Quick Review #6

- Weeds
 - Weed = Plant out of place, move in where/when turf can't thrive
 - Mow high, re-seed for dense turf, maintain proper watering, fertility, pH and aeration
- Control
 - Corn gluten pre-emergent
 - Acetic acid (Burn Out), fatty acids (Scythe), or for large areas, solarization



Quick Review Final

- Assess your lawn
- Clean up, soil test, amend per test
- Aerate/de-thatch if necessary
- First mow, 2" and remove clippings
- Seeding, top dress with compost
- Mow and water properly
- Weed management
- Disease management
- Insect management
- Summer lawn care review



Let's go!

