

# Lawn-care checklist

Safer  
BRAND

Way  
to  
Grow

## Lawn First-Aid Kit

NO NEED FOR DRASTIC MEASURES WHEN LAWN PROBLEMS STRIKE. JUST PULL OUT THIS GUIDE TO TREATING THE SYMPTOMS AND THE CAUSES.

### Pale and Weak

**Symptoms:** Yellow or splotchy grass that doesn't grow much during its active season (spring and fall in the North, summer in the South).

**Cause:** Lack of nutrients; grass low in iron—common in alkaline soils—gets yellow or white spots.

**Cures:** Spray lawn with compost tea (homemade or store-bought) for a quick dose of nutrients. Spread an organic fertilizer, such as Ringer Lawn Restore. Apply sulfur to lower the pH of alkaline soil.

### Dead Zones

**Symptom:** Brown areas that come loose when you tug gently.

**Causes:** Grubs, chinch bugs, or other surface-feeders.

**Cures:** Treat your lawn with neem extract spray (such as Safer Brand Grub Killer) that stops pests from feeding on plants. These insects seek moist conditions, so allow your lawn to dry after watering.

### Mushrooms and Toadstools

**Symptoms:** White, brown, gray, or yellow fungi that grow back even after you mow.

**Cause:** Dark and damp conditions, such as the dying roots of trees and shrubs.

**Cures:** Rake the fungi and loosen the topsoil (6 inches deep) where it was growing. Mix in compost to improve the drainage, and prune to let more light reach the spot. If brightening is not possible, consider a different ground cover.

### Moss, Not Grass

**Symptoms:** A velvety green mat covering the ground, especially around trees; sparse grass.

**Causes:** Acidic, damp, and shady areas.

**Cures:** Raise the pH by spreading lime over the soil,

and improve the drainage by mixing in organic matter. Prune to let in more sun, rake the moss, and patch the area with Safer Brand Magic Start seed-and-feed kit right away. You also can plant another shade-loving ground cover, or learn to appreciate moss.

### Pink Blobs

**Symptom:** Roughly circular patches of dead, matted grass with weblike pink mold on top.

**Causes:** Snow on grass that's covered by wet leaves, or snow that doesn't freeze and stays for weeks.

**Cures:** Mow or rake thick piles of leaves in the fall.

Skip synthetic fertilizers, which stimulate excessive grass growth that's vulnerable to mold. Use Safer Brand Magic Start to repair the damage.

### Striped Grass

**Symptoms:** Yellow or brown lines.

**Causes:** Unevenly applied fertilizer (yellow lines), or excess synthetic fertilizer (brown).

**Cures:** Make sure each pass with a drop spreader overlaps the prior one, or use a broadcast spreader. Always feed your lawn with slow-release organic fertilizer, which will not burn. Help any fertilizer begin breaking down right away by watering after you apply it.

