

Lewis Lawn & Labor
Soil Quality Restoration FAQs

Do we have a start date for these projects?

The projects will start on September 4

Do I need to mark utilities?

Marking utilities (sewer, gas, cable, electrical) is usually not necessary as part of the soil quality restoration. However, if you have reason to believe that any of these things may be located less than 6 inches below ground level you will want to call Iowa One Call (811).

What do I need to do to prepare for the project?

- Mark all invisible fence lines and irrigation heads & lines.
- Clean up animal waste and sticks before aeration
- Cut grass to 2-3" - be careful not to scalp the yard.

Can I continue lawn treatments?

Compost is a natural lawn fertilizer. In order to not overwhelm or imbalance your lawn with nitrates, we recommend stopping fertilizer treatments 3-4 weeks before your SQR. You can continue to spot treat your lawn with weed killer, as needed. You may resume lawn fertilization/treatments 3-4 weeks after the completion of the project.

Can I spray my weeds?

You can continue to spot treat your lawn with weed killer, as needed, but should stop fertilizer treatments 3-4 weeks before your SQR.

Can we do a late fertilizer application after the SQR project?

Yes. You can resume fertilizing 3-4 weeks after the project.

Can we avoid the expense of fertilizing next year?

No. However, soil quality improvements will help you create a beautiful, healthy lawn that requires less water and reduced fertilizer and pesticide applications.

Do we need to notify our fertilizing company?

Yes. You should stop fertilization treatments 3-4 weeks before the project and wait 3-4 weeks after the project.

The fertilizer has already been put down, can we be later on the list.

If you recently received yard treatment, please email us at lewislawnlabor@gmail.com

If our fertilizer was put down on August 19th, should we request to be later on the list?

We recommend stopping fertilizer treatments 3-4 weeks before your SQR; however, rainfall will shorten the amount of time we have to wait.

We had fertilizer put down on August 23rd, should we delay our project?

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We recommend stopping fertilizer treatments 3-4 weeks before your SQR; however, rainfall will shorten the amount of time we have to wait.

What kind of seed will you use?

We use a sun/shade Kentucky Bluegrass blend with no fescue or ryes

Do you have a variety of seed types? We have a very shaded yard and I am hoping you put a shade seed down?

We use a sun/shade Kentucky Bluegrass blend with no fescue or ryes

Is the seed being put down right after aeration and before the compost?

Seed is placed on top of the compost.

What kind of compost do you use?

We use Grow Gold Compost from Metro Waste Authority.

<https://www.mwatoday.com/waste-recycling/yard-waste/grow-gold-compost/>

Will you be using ½" of compost or ¾" of compost?

The compost application will vary between ½" and ¾". Established yards will typically have closer to ½"

How deep will you aerate?

We use deep tine aeration and typical depth for SQR is 3" - 5"

Will you be doing a double or triple pass aeration?

We use a contractor grade, stand-on aerator. It is a single pass aeration, that will overlap on each pass. You don't want to over-aerate and loosen well rooted grass systems.

Do you recommend picking up the plugs after aeration?

No. Leave the plugs.

Will you fill low spots in my yard?

If you have low spots in your lawn, you may want to consider leveling them with dirt prior to the project. Compost is less dense than dirt and won't fill in voids in the yard.

How long do I need to stay off my lawn?

Your yard will be immediately safe for kids and pets; however, it will be messy, so be sure to remove shoes and wipe paws!

Any extra work for homeowners for especially bare spots?

If there are low spots in your yard, you should level them with dirt before we complete the SQR.

Will this project help prevent any additional needed treatments in the spring, and will this project help address issues with crabgrass and clover?

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Soil Quality Restoration will help all things to grow in your yard, including weeds, so we recommend spot treating your lawn and aerating with overseeding once per year.

Do we need to be home when you work on our lawn?

No.

With most of our homes sitting on clay lots, do you find that most of these lots need more than one compost treatment?

You will see immediate benefits from the Soil Quality Restoration; however, heavily compacted yards and yards with a lot of clay may need an additional SQR in 1-3 years. For best results we recommend annual aeration and overseeding.

Can you specifically request an October appointment as temperatures in September have been warm in recent years?

We can not accommodate scheduling requests. If you recently received yard treatment, please email us at lewislawnlabor@gmail.com

Will you try to do next door neighbors at the same time?

Yes.

How long do you recommend keeping animals off the lawn to avoid killing seed after the treatment?

The yard is immediately safe for kids and pets.

I have dead spots from dog pee and grub damage, do you recommend I rake that dead grass out first I assume?

Yes. Dethatch those areas. We may need to place a thicker layer of compost there.

Do you need to wait a certain amount of time after de-thatching?

No.

Do we bag the grass before or after the project?

Bag before the project, but do not bag the first mow after the project - - you don't want to bag the compost.

Is there any aftercare?

Compost Maintenance: Your yard is immediately safe for kids and pets; however, it will be messy, so be sure to remove shoes and wipe paws!

- Identify areas of thicker compost and pull grass blades through the compost layer with a rake.
- Do not let grass be completely covered for more than three days.
- Loosen ("fluff") areas of thick, crusted or compacted compost with a rake.

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Watering: SQR projects are completed in the spring and fall when the ground naturally holds water.

- For instant gratification, you can water your lawn.
- Even without frequent watering, the seed will take hold naturally the following fall or spring, just with a lower germination rate.
- If you have dew on your lawn in the morning, you do not need to water in the morning.
- We recommend the "tuna can method" for watering. Watch this video for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1961heRnNcs>
- Follow your city's guidance on watering during the summer months.

Annual Maintenance: To build up or maintain a thick, healthy and lush lawn, we advise homeowners to:

- Overseed once per year (spring OR fall).
- Dethatch areas of dead grass in the spring.
- Aerate to decrease soil compaction and allow the grass's root system to expand and absorb water.