

Power Raking

A healthy lawn requires adequate water, an exchange of oxygen and nutrients, and a level of microbial activity in its soil. Excessive thatch build up is usually the biggest threat to a lawn. Thatch is composed of intermingled layers of living and dead stems, leaves, and roots between the green vegetation and the soil surface. Practically speaking, thatch is an organic material that does not decompose. A thatch layer of ½" acts as an insulator, keeping soil temperatures low and helping to retain moisture. However, a thatch layer exceeding ½" prevents air, light, and water from reaching the turfs root zone. As thatch accumulates, there is a tendency for root growth to occur primarily in the thatch layer rather than the soil. This results in a weakened, poorly rooted lawn that is prone to stress injury. Thatch also makes an excellent breeding ground for harmful insects and disease organisms. We recommend power raking in the early spring before new growth has begun. Power raking is also a great service to combine with over seeding, as it opens the lawn surface so that new seeds can get better established.

