

Moss Removal and Lawn Care in BC

If your lawn has patches of thick, spongy green moss, you're not alone. Moss is one of the most common lawn problems across the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island — and the good news is, it's very manageable once you understand what's causing it.

WHY DOES MOSS GROW IN MY LAWN?

Moss doesn't invade a healthy lawn — it moves in when grass is struggling. In BC's cool, wet climate, several things can weaken your grass and give moss the upper hand:

- Too much shade — moss loves low light; grass doesn't
- Soggy or compacted soil — if water pools or drains slowly, moss will thrive
- Poor soil nutrition — thin, underfed grass can't compete
- Acidic soil — BC's heavy rainfall makes our soils naturally acidic, which moss prefers

Fix the underlying cause and you'll have far fewer moss problems in the long run.

HOW TO GET RID OF MOSS: A SIMPLE STEP-BY-STEP

1. Apply a moss control product

Spread a lawn-safe moss killer evenly over the affected areas. GARDENWORKS 14-4-8 with Moss Control is a great all-in-one option — it kills moss and feeds your lawn at the same time. Follow the label directions, and keep the product away from driveways and pavement (it can cause staining).

2. Leave it alone for 48 hours

Don't water the lawn for about two days after applying. This gives the product time to work.

3. Wait for the moss to turn black (7–10 days)

When the moss goes dark, it's dead. That's your signal to move to the next step. Don't rake too early — it reduces how well the treatment works.

4. Rake out the dead moss

Use a stiff lawn rake to pull out all the dead moss. For a large lawn, consider renting a dethatching machine to save time and effort.

5. Loosen the soil (aeration)

This step makes a big difference. Aeration means poking holes in the soil (or removing small plugs) so that air, water, and nutrients can reach the grass roots. You can rent an aerator, or hire someone to do it. After aerating, apply a thin layer of GARDENWORKS Lawn Soil to fill the holes and improve drainage.

6. Feed your lawn

Apply GARDENWORKS 14-4-8 in early spring (late March to April) to give your lawn a healthy boost. Later in summer, switch to GARDENWORKS 23-3-23 for a higher-nitrogen feed that encourages lush green growth. Always follow the recommended application rates on the package.

7. Fill in bare patches with grass seed

Moss-damaged areas won't fill back in on their own fast enough. Overseed bare spots with a seed blend suited to your lawn:

- GARDENWORKS Shady Lawn — for areas under trees or with limited sun
 - A standard sun blend — for open, well-lit areas
- Don't seed over moss — remove it first for the best results.

8. Water the new grass consistently

Keep newly seeded areas moist until the grass is established. After that, water less often but more deeply — this encourages stronger, deeper roots.

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WHEN SHOULD I TREAT MOSS?

Time of Year	What to Do
February – April	First moss treatment; aerate and overseed
Late March – April	Apply spring fertilizer
September – October	Second moss treatment; strengthen lawn before winter

TIPS TO KEEP MOSS AWAY LONG-TERM

- **Mow regularly, but not too short** — taller grass shades the soil and makes it harder for moss to take hold
- **Prune trees and shrubs** to let more light reach your lawn
- **Test and adjust your soil pH** — if your soil is too acidic, dolomite lime (we carry Dolopril, an easy-to-spread granule) can help. Water it in well after applying
- **Add compost** — a thin topdressing improves soil quality and helps grass outcompete moss
- **Water deeply, not daily** — frequent shallow watering weakens roots; longer, less frequent watering builds stronger grass

OKANAGAN LAWNS (PENTICTON AREA)

Moss is less common in the drier Okanagan interior, but it can still pop up in shaded or overwatered spots. If you're in the Penticton area, focus on:

- Avoiding overwatering, especially in shaded areas
- Aerating and adding compost to improve soil health
- Choosing drought-tolerant grass seed varieties

Our Penticton team is happy to recommend products suited to your local conditions.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Why does moss keep coming back?

The conditions that favour moss — shade, moisture, poor soil — haven't been fully corrected. Moss killer removes what's there; improving your lawn is what keeps it from returning.

Do I fertilize before or after removing moss?

After. Remove the moss first so fertilizer can reach the soil directly.

Can I seed over moss?

No — rake out the moss first, then seed. Grass needs good contact with soil to germinate properly.

When is the best time to aerate?

Early spring (March–April) or early fall (September–October) work best for most BC lawns.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Bring a photo of your lawn to any GARDENWORKS location and our team will help you figure out the best products and plan for your situation. We're happy to walk you through it.

The best defence against moss is a thick, healthy lawn. A little regular care goes a long way.

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Magnolia Care Guide for BC

COMPANION PLANTS FOR MAGNOLIAS

Magnolias pair beautifully with woodland and layered plantings. Companion plants should tolerate similar soil and light conditions.

Shrub Companions

- Camellias (coastal areas)
- Hydrangeas
- Pieris
- Leucothoe

Perennial Companions

- Hellebores
- Hostas
- Heuchera
- Ferns (hardy and native varieties)
- Bergenia

Native & Ecosystem-Friendly Options

- Foamflower (Tiarella)
- Wild ginger (Asarum caudatum)

SEASONAL MAGNOLIA CARE CALENDAR (BC)

Shrub Companions

Early Spring

- Apply compost
- Monitor for frost damage

Late Spring

- Enjoy bloom
- Light structural pruning if needed

Summer

- Deep watering during dry periods
- Monitor for heat stress inland

Fall

- Maintain mulch
- Avoid fertilizing late in season

Winter

- Protect young trees from extreme cold inland

MAGNOLIA FAQs

Do magnolias grow well in BC?

Yes — especially in South Coastal BC where climate conditions are ideal.

Can magnolias grow in Penticton?

Yes, but choose hardy deciduous varieties and plant in protected locations with consistent watering. Evergreen varieties are not recommended for our Penticton guests.

Do magnolias need acidic soil?

They prefer slightly acidic to neutral soil but are adaptable with proper amendment.

When should I prune magnolias?

Prune lightly in late summer after flowering.