Spring Lawn Care Checklist

For residential lawns coming out of winter or seasonal dormancy. Identify your grass and local growing conditions first: cool-season recovery and warm-season green-up require different timing.

Date: _____ Completed by: _____ Grass type / location: _____

Before you start

- Record grass type and location; consult your local university extension calendar rather than a national date list. Gather gloves, a rake and any relevant mower or irrigation manuals.
- Avoid work on frozen or saturated ground. Isolate mower power before maintenance; follow product labels and local water and fertilizer restrictions.

Assess

- [ ] **Identify your grass type and local spring timing (Essential)**

  Cool-season and warm-season lawns need different schedules. Use local extension guidance.

- [ ] **Remove litter when soil is firm enough (Essential)**

  Avoid walking or working on saturated or frozen soil.

- [ ] **Inspect bare areas, weeds and drainage (Essential)**

  Identify the cause before choosing treatment.

- [ ] **Arrange a soil test if needed (If Applicable)**

  If you lack a current soil test or soil problems are suspected.

  Use results and local recommendations before adding lime or nutrients.

Resume care

- [ ] **Service mowing equipment safely (If Applicable)**

  If you own mowing equipment.

  Disconnect power before maintenance; check blade condition and guards.

- [ ] **Begin mowing at the recommended height for your grass (If Applicable)**

  When your grass is actively growing and the ground supports mowing.

  Avoid scalping and removing more than one-third of the blade at a time.

- [ ] **Inspect irrigation for leaks and coverage (If Applicable)**

  If you use a residential irrigation system.

  Observe sprinkler coverage and visible leaks. Avoid watering pavement; adjust controller settings only if fitted, using local restrictions and the system manual. Do not perform electrical or pressurized valve repairs.

- [ ] **Plan weed prevention around any seeding (If Applicable)**

  If weed prevention is needed; first check any seeding plans.

  Many pre-emergent products prevent grass seed establishment. Follow labels and local timing.

Target work to conditions

- [ ] **Fertilize only when grass and soil conditions support it (If Applicable)**

  If soil-test and local grass-specific recommendations call for fertilizer.

  Use soil-test and local grass-specific guidance; do not fertilize frozen ground.

- [ ] **Schedule seeding or aeration in the appropriate growth window (If Applicable)**

  If renovation is needed and your grass is in its suitable active-growth window.

  For cool-season turf, major renovation is often better in late summer or early fall. For warm-season turf, use its active-growth window. Confirm species and regional guidance before aerating or seeding.

- [ ] **Record lawn issues and your next care window (Optional)**

  Keep a note of drainage, bare areas and local advice before buying treatments.

Notes / additional tasks

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