



TSV TURF  
RENOVATIONS

# LAWN RENOVATION GUIDE

## PRE-RENOVATION

### Timing

- Best window: August to May with combined daily temperatures >36°C. Warmer soils = faster recovery and regrowth

### Lawn Preparation

- Inspect and ensure reticulation is in working order
- Remove weeds with appropriate selective herbicide or manually
- Water lawn 1–2 days before to soften soil if dry
- Check for signs of compaction, thatch, and bare patches

### Mark Hazards

- Use markers to protect obstacles such as irrigation and tree roots.

### Gear Check

- Book & prep equipment
- Organise PPE: gloves, eyewear, boots
- Arrange topdressing mix in advance
- Optional: Do a soil test to guide fertiliser or pH adjustments

### Access & Safety

- Clear paths for equipment use
- Move or cover fragile garden features
- Secure pets and inform household

## DISCLAIMER

This is a general guide. Adjust steps based on your lawn type, weather, and soil conditions. TSV Turf Renovations is not responsible for injury, damage, or poor results due to incorrect use of products, tools, or techniques. Always follow label instructions, wear PPE, and seek advice if unsure.

**MORE INFORMATION &  
FAQ'S @  
TSVTURF.COM.AU**



## DURING RENOVATION

### 1. Scalp the Lawn

Cut the grass as low as your mower allows to remove excess leaf material and reset the lawn.

- Mow in multiple passes, lowering the height each time until desired height (10mm standard)
- Remove clippings to avoid smothering
- For thick thatch, combine scalping with dethatching

 **Use: Bushranger Utility Mower, Masport Rotary Mower, Whipper Snipper**

### 2. Dethatch / Scarify

Remove built-up organic matter that blocks water and nutrients from reaching the soil.

- Use a dethatcher / scarifier in multiple directions
- Best for Couch, Kikuyu, and Zoysia (be gentle on Buffalo)
- Dispose thatch - mow, rake or blow off clippings

 **Use: Predator Scarifier + Rake / Mower / Blower + Cart**

### 3. Core Aerate

Relieve compaction and improve oxygen, water, and nutrient flow to the roots.


- Remove plugs 50–100 mm apart
- Leave plugs to break down (unless your soil is poor)
- Optional: Apply fertiliser after aeration or wait until topdressing

 **Use: Billy Goat Core Aerator / Hand Core Aerator**

### 4. Topdress

Spread a thin layer of sandy loam, washed sand, or blend to level and enrich the soil.

- Apply evenly at 5–10 mm (Buffalo/Zoysia: <5 mm)
- Don't completely cover the grass
- Level to blend into the surface gently
- Fertilise and water in well after applying
- Step back and admire your work — recovery begins now!

 **Use: Eco 250 Top Dresser + Lawn Leveller, Drag Mat (optional), Wheelbarrow / Shovel, Fertiliser Spreader, Backpack Sprayer**



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## POST-RENOVATION

### Watering Schedule

- Immediately after: Deep soak to settle topdressing
- Days 1–14: Light, frequent watering (2–3× daily)
- Weeks 3–4: Shift to deeper, less frequent watering
- Keep soil moist but not soggy

### Fertilising

- Apply a balanced granular fertiliser immediately after renovation
- Split application: half after aeration, half post-topdress (optional)
- Consider adding a soil wetter if your soil is sandy or hydrophobic
- Use a seaweed tonic weekly to boost early recovery (optional)

### Weed & Pest Control

- Apply pre-emergent herbicide (e.g. Barricade or Spartan) to prevent new weeds
- Use Acelepryn for grub control — safe and effective

### Mowing

- First mow: around 2–3 weeks (once the lawn is visibly growing)
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade
- Mow regularly once lawn thickens
- Spot-weed any emerging invaders

### Expectations

- Lawn may look worse initially
- Recovery usually noticeable at 3–4 weeks
- Full improvement by 6–8 weeks with proper care

## THE FIRST 6 WEEKS

**Week 1:** Soil settles, recovery begins

→ Keep soil moist, avoid walking on lawn

**Weeks 2–3:** Growth activates

→ First mow, apply light fertiliser if not already done

**Week 4:** Lawn visibly improves

→ Adjust watering schedule, spot-treat weeds

**Weeks 5–6:** Turf thickens, roots grow deeper

→ Mow regularly, reduce watering frequency



## SOIL HEALTH ADD-ONS (OPTIONAL)

### Soil Wetters

Help moisture penetrate hydrophobic (water-repellent) soils and improve water distribution in sandy profiles.

### pH Adjusters

- Lime – Raises pH in acidic soils
- Sulphur – Lowers pH in alkaline soils

### Compost / Organic Matter

Adds carbon, improves microbial activity, and enhances long-term soil structure when used in light topdressing.

### Seaweed / Kelp Tonic

Supports stress resistance, boosts root development, and stimulates microbial activity.

### Humic Acid

Improves nutrient uptake, buffers soil pH, and enhances soil structure and moisture retention. Often applied as a liquid or granular alongside fertilisers.

### Biological Inoculants (e.g. beneficial microbes or mycorrhizae)

Enhance nutrient cycling, root health, and soil resilience, especially useful in poor or compacted soils.

## ! COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Overwatering — can cause disease or root rot
- Mowing too soon or too low — stresses recovering turf
- Ignoring weed control — leads to reinfestation
- Applying products during hot or windy weather
- Using low-quality or contaminated soil

## TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Take photos before, immediately after, and weekly. This helps identify improvements, time growth spurts, troubleshoot issues and plan for the next renovation.



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