

The Turf Doctor
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Spring/Fall Dethatching

Thatch is a tightly intermingled layer of living and dead stems, roots, rhizomes, plant crowns and other plant parts that develop between the green vegetation and the soil surface. Thatch accumulation occurs when the rate of buildup exceeds the rate of decay. Grass clippings do not contribute to the thatch layer. Clippings readily decompose. A thatch layer over ½ inch or more will prohibit water, air and nutrients from entering the root zone. Creeping bentgrass will benefit the most from dethatching. This will shorten the length of the stolons and greatly improve the appearance.

Dethatching, or vertical grooming, is a process that mechanically removes accumulated plant debris using vertical steel blades to slice through the turf. This procedure may cause some minor damage to the turf or browning. Spring or fall is the best time to do this task due to the excellent growing conditions. The debris will be cleaned up and removed.

The benefits of dethatching are:

- Allows air, water and nutrients to reach the root zone.
- Reduces heat and drought stress.
- Reduces breeding area for insects and disease.
- Increases rooting.
- Increases performance of fertilizers, etc.
- Restores the overall appearance by stimulating the grass to “thicken up.”

Dethatching costs four times (\$140 min.) your spring/crab fertilization rate, plus tax. Add \$20 for irrigation system or invisible fence.

Cut along the line and return the bottom portion. Keep the upper portion for your record. We will bill you when the job is completed.

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- Yes! Dethatch my lawn
 - I have an underground irrigation system and/or invisible fence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____