

No Moss, No Moles, No Swamp, No Weeds, No Disease!

A Lawn Renovation Test:

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## The Backstory

**Two years ago, our Hendrikus Organics turf experts began testing out a new lawn replacement program on a Puget Sound area yard that suffered from weekly mole damage, was overrun by moss**

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**and weeds, had very poor drainage caused by compacted soil, and was low in soil fertility. This lawn was in dire need of an organic lawn solution.**

### *A New Lawn Solution, Two Years in the Making*

Here is a look at the steps that were followed so you can do a complete lawn renovation at your home.

#### **Step 1: Removal of the Existing Lawn**

We determined that our test lawn was in such dire shape that the best course of action would be to remove all the existing turf and start from scratch. Our turf experts rolled up their sleeves and dug out all of the grass using a sod cutter, but you can also use a straight spade. The top 3-4 inches of soil was removed with the grass so that we could get down deep and address the underlying soil health issues.

#### **Step 2: Raise the Irrigation Heads**

We raised the sprinkler heads of the irrigation system to the final grade, which is about 3-5 inches above the soil level after the soil and grass was removed. If you do not have an irrigation system currently installed, you can skip this step and move on to step 3.

Considering installing an irrigation system around your yard? This would be the perfect time to check this project off of your to-do list. Complete an online search to find the right irrigation system for you. Depending on what system you go with, they are affordable and easy to install.

#### **Step 3: Till the Soil (if you can)**

The ground was so hard at the test lawn property we were not able to till but do so if you can in your own yard. You can till your soil with a rototiller and a metal rake to loosen up the soil and give it some structure. You can also take a little of the 60% sand/40% compost mix we use in Step #4 and till that into the hardened soil to help keep it loosened.

#### **Step 4: Getting Rid of Mole Problems**

Moles are pesky little critters that can wreak serious havoc on your lawn if they move into your yard. To eradicate the mole that had taken up residency under our test lawn, we rolled out galvanized chicken wire and blanketed the soil with it, using landscaping staples to hold it in place.



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Since chicken wire varies in sizes, be sure to use a type with tight mesh and overlap each sheet by approximately 6 inches to ensure the mole can't tunnel through the seams of your chicken wire to get to the surface. It is also recommended that you do not put more than 4-5 inches of the compost/sand mix on the chicken wire or the mole may tunnel on top of the chicken wire.

#### **Step 5: Doctoring Up the Soil and Giving it Structure**

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Next, our turf experts applied a 60% sand/40% compost mix in layers of approximately 1-inch each, building material up to about 3-5 inches across the entire lawn. If you have mole damage and have applied galvanized chicken wire in your yard, it is recommended that you do not build your soil base more than 4 inches above the wire or a mole may tunnel through above the wire.

#### **Step 6: Application of Axis (Diatomaceous Earth)**

Our turf experts also applied [Axis \(Diatomaceous Earth\)](#) at a rate of 300 – 400lbs per 1,000 square feet and raked in the soil mix as it was applied in each layer. Diatomaceous earth is like nature's sponge, holding onto moisture and reducing wetness during the winter months and then holding water in the soil during the summer months – reducing the need for irrigation during the summer. Axis also helps build soil microbes in your soil. Once the diatomaceous earth was raked into the soil, they smoothed everything out so that the new lawn would be nice and level (to help get your lawn get extra smooth you can also use a lawn roller after you level it out and the lightly rough the surface with a broom rake before adding nutrients and seed).



#### **Step 7: Application of Fertilizer and Grass Seed**

With a new soil foundation built, it was time to get some nutrients back into the soil so that the lawn would grow lush and healthy and soil microbes would have the nutrients needed to do their duty underground. Our turf experts applied [Complete 6-4-4](#) at a rate of 13 lbs per 1,000 square feet with a fertilizer spreader.

This was then followed up with a 50/50 spray mixture of [Hendrikus Organics Ocean Magic & HuMagic](#) on the soil with a tank sprayer at 8oz per gallon. We applied about two gallons of the liquid fertilizer mixture over 1,000 square feet.

Once soil was well fertilized, [Hendrikus Organics Turf Seed](#) was applied at a rate of 10 lbs per 1,000 square feet with a fertilizer spreader. The seed was then covered with a thin layer of peat moss (1/4 inch) to hold in moisture and aid in germination. We lightly watered the lawn and continued to do so as needed to keep soil moist since dry seed will not germinate.

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#### **Step 8: Followed Up with Nitrogen Plus 10-0-2 Fertilizer**

Once the new turf grass reached approximately 2-3 inches in height, our turf experts applied **Nitrogen Plus 10-0-2** at a rate of about 8-10#s per 1,000 square feet. This application was needed to ensure the new grass had enough organic nitrogen for proper development as the microbes went to work building up the soil.

#### **The Results of the Lawn Test**

Over the course of the two-year test period, the new lawn vastly improved and was noticeably greener and lusher than the previous turf. Better yet, there was no mole damage, no disease, minimal weeds and moss, and the lawn required less irrigation to maintain its green, healthy appearance. The new organic lawn maintained its lush green color even during the winter months.

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### **Ongoing Turf Care and Maintenance**

After approximately two months of growth, our new turf grass was thick and lush. If you determine that your new grass looks a little hungry, follow up with another application of **Nitrogen Plus 10-0-2**. If your lawn is green and looks healthy, you can follow up with an application of **Seasons 8-0-4**, just to give it an extra boost of nutrients. This can vary depending on soil conditions and how fast the soil microbes develop and grow in the soil.

On an ongoing basis, apply **Hendrikus Organics Ocean Magic and HuMagic** on the soil with a tank sprayer at 8oz (4oz each) per each gallon of water, at least twice a year. Apply this at a rate of about 2 gallons of mixture per 1,000 square feet. This is done to keep increasing the humic acid, biochar, and microbes in the soil so that it maintains its nutrient-rich structure. Fertilize approximately every 3 months during the growing season thereafter to keep your brand new lawn looking lusciously green and healthy.