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**March Lawn Care Tips From Rocky Mountain Ace Stores**

With unseasonably warm temperatures across Colorado in February and March, many people are venturing out into their yards to begin the process of turning what was once a winter wonderland into a lush green escape. The task might look overwhelming at first, but with a little help from the experts, you can have a fresh-looking lawn and garden in no time.

Ace Hardware suggests homeowners take the following steps in March to set the stage for a lush, healthy lawn all summer:

- **Rake** – March is a great time to begin raking your lawn. Raking helps get rid of the accumulation of dead grass blades, as well as the thatch or mat layers that can harbor diseases. Thinning the mat layer also helps open the lawn up for fertilizer and moisture to get through.
- **Aerate** – Core aeration is one of the best things you can do in the spring to breath life into your lawn. Aeration promotes healthy root growth, increases air and water penetration, and provides an opening for fertilizer and pulverized compost to enter the soil. It is particularly important to aerate lawns on clay soil that are prone to compacting from human and pet traffic and from running the mower over the lawn.
- **Reseed** – Prepare your lawn for reseeding with an organic soil conditioner like Revive. Apply grass seed to thin or bare areas, and water liberally to maintain a moist seedbed for the germination period of 14-20 days.
- **Water** – Warm winds, higher temperatures and a lack of moisture can put real stress on the lawn. Late-winter and early-spring watering is key to a healthy lawn year-round. Try a frog eye or twin eye sprinkler and water 15-20 minutes per section, particularly on the sides of the lawn with south and southwest exposure. These warmer areas are also where clover mites love to feed on the grass, and watering is a great way to keep them at bay.
- **Weed prevention** – Now is a good time to apply early-season fertilizer and pre-emergence herbicides to combat annual grassy and broadleaf weeds. Four-step lawn care programs from Ace Hardware and Scott's make it easy to know what to apply when. Step one, which includes fertilizer plus crabgrass preventer, should be applied in late March or early April.
- **Sharpen your mower blade.** A sharp blade is essential for a healthy lawn.

For more lawn & garden tips or detailed advice on home improvement, visit your local Ace Hardware store or log on to [www.rockymountainace.com](http://www.rockymountainace.com).