

**Let lawns green up before doing aggressive cultivation**  
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The warm weather has many of us excited to start improving on our home landscapes. Many tasks and projects can be completed this time of year. However, be careful with aggressive lawn cultivation such as dethatching and aerating. While the soils are warming, the plants are still dehydrated and fragile. Let the plants rehydrate and begin to **actively** regrow before starting aggressive management practices. The grass will quickly recover from dethatching and aeration once it begins to grow in early to mid-April. Use this great weather to get caught up on other outdoor projects. Be patient, you'll be baling hay from your lawn soon.

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Figure 1. A power rake or dethatching unit can be an effective way to remove excess lawn thatch. This practice is aggressive and can be too stressful on the plants in early spring. Hold off on aggressive cultivation until the grass is growing vigorously later this spring.

