



## Question of the Week

**Q: What can I do about all this miserable moss on my lawn?**

**A:** Moss can be difficult to control. It's important to find and correct the underlying factors that have created such a favorable environment for the moss. Conditions that favor the growth of moss include low soil fertility, too much soil moisture, low pH, and not enough sunlight.

Have your soil tested. The results will tell you how much lime and fertilizer to apply to correct soil pH and improve soil fertility.

If the area is constantly moist, you'll need to redirect downspouts or take other steps to improve drainage. Lawns growing on heavy clay soils need aeration, especially in the lowest-lying spots. In autumn, either spike the area four inches deep with a garden fork or use a hollow-tine fork to take out plugs of turf. Fill the holes with sharp horticultural sand or grit to allow air into the soil and help dry out the surface.

If the area stays wet because of dense shade from mature trees, consider hiring a certified arborist to remove some of the lower limbs and thin dense canopies. Allowing more sun exposure and increasing air circulation will help the area dry faster after rainfall. Also, more sun will create a better environment for grass to grow. The best way to discourage moss is to encourage the grass.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)