

# A Truly “Green” Lawn

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# *Confessions of a Golf Course Superintendent....*

- Greener is better
- Weeds are ugly
- Things need to look perfect!



# *A truly green lawn*

Part 1. How to optimize turf health utilizing no chemicals or synthetic fertilizers.

Part 2. Re imagining the home lawn

# *The Perfect Lawn.....*

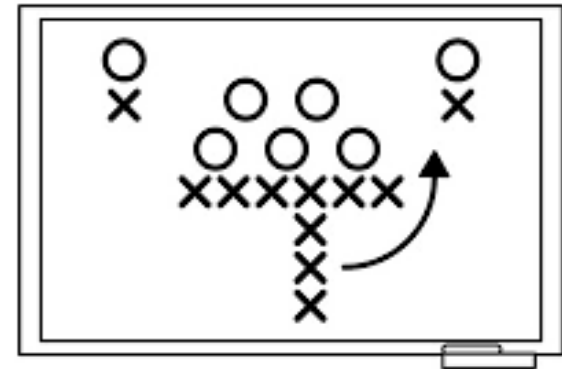
How did we get here?



# *Part 1. Optimum Turf Vigor without synthetics*

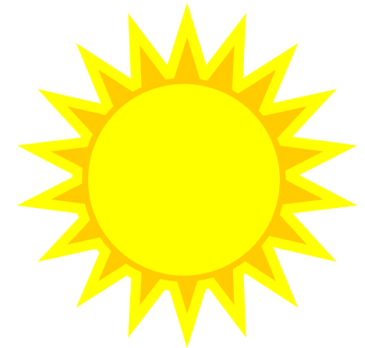
## ▪ **The best defense is a good offense**

- Right Grass species
- Healthy Soil
- Cultural practices



# Basic Needs of Turfgrass

- Water
- Soil
- Sunlight
- Air
- Nutrients



N,P,K



# *Cool Season Turf Grasses*

- Kentucky Bluegrass
- Perennial Ryegrass
- Fine Fescues
- Creeping Bentgrass
- Turf Type Tall Fescue



# Soil

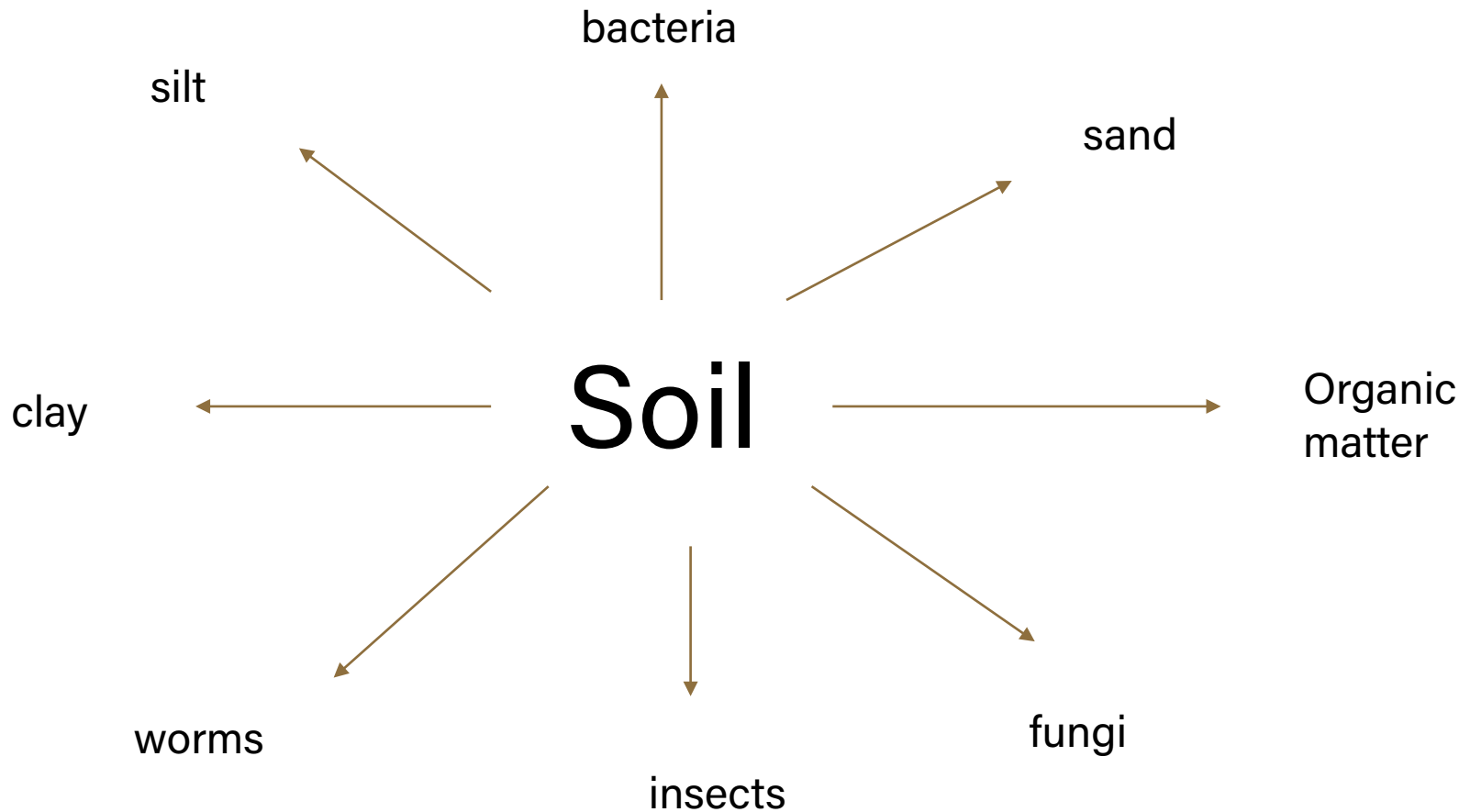
## Know your soil

- Soil testing
- Soil Structure
- Ph
- Soil Fertility

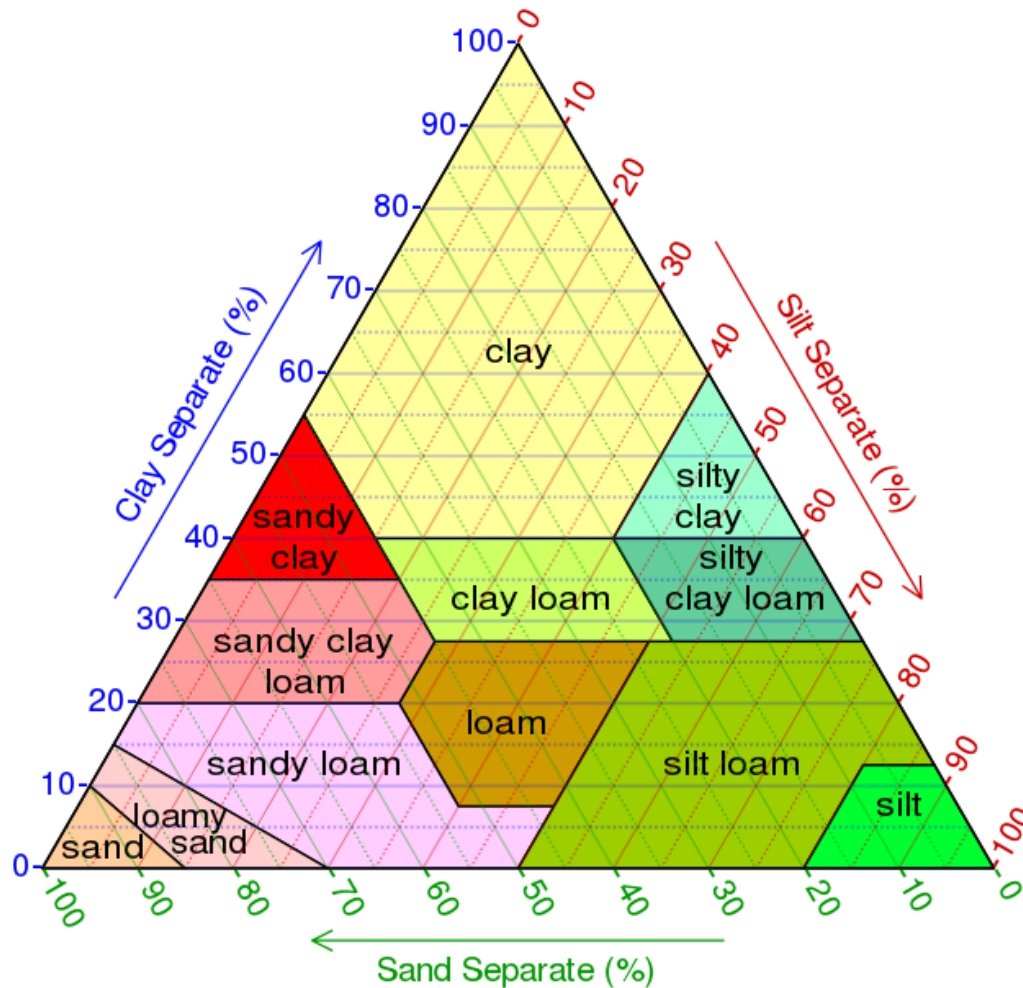




# Soil or Dirt?



# Soil Types



# Turf Fertilization

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Micronutrients

**Table 3. Annual Nitrogen Requirement**

<b>Grass Species</b>	<b>Low Maintenance</b>	<b>High Maintenance</b>
Turf-type tall fescue	1 to 2 pounds	2.5 to 4 pounds
Fine Fescue	1 to 2 pounds	2.5 to 4 pounds
Perennial ryegrass	2 to 3 pounds	3.5 to 5 pounds
Kentucky bluegrass	2 to 3 pounds	3.5 to 5 pounds



# Organic Turf Fertilization options

Organic Fertilizer	% N	% P	% K	Lbs product for 1# N
Alfalfa Pellets	5	1	2	20
Blood Meal	10	1	0	10
Bone Meal	3	15	0	33
Composted Chicken Manure	.5	.3	.5	200
Cottonseed Meal	3	1	1	33
Feather Meal	12	0	0	8
Fish Pellets	7	7	2	14
Composted Cos Manure	.5	.3	.5	200
Greensand	0	1	6	na

Chart courtesy Ohio State Univ.

# Organic Turf Fertilization options

Organic Fertilizer	% N	% P	% K	Lbs product for 1# N
Kelp Meal	2	1	3	50
Organic Pellets (various ingredients)	6	6	6	16
Corn Gluten Meal	10	0	0	10
Seabird Guano	12	8	2	8
Shellfish fertilizer	3	3	1	33
Soybean Meal	7	1	3	14
Erth Rite	3	3	2	33
Milorganite	6	2	0	16
ReVita Compost	3	4	3	33

Chart Courtesy Ohio State Univ.

# *Turf Fertilization*

## Fertilization Timing

- Early Fall
- Late Fall
- Late Spring/Early Summer



# Mowing

- The goal of your mowing regiment should be to maintain a healthy turfgrass plant.
- Every time you cut your grass you are injuring the turf plant. Let's learn to minimize the injury and the corresponding stress on the plant, which will result in a healthier, greener lawn!



# Mowing

## Height of cut

- Most common lawn grasses prefer a higher height of cut, usually at least 3"
- This leaves enough leaf material present for the plant to photosynthesize at an appropriate rate to ensure plant health.

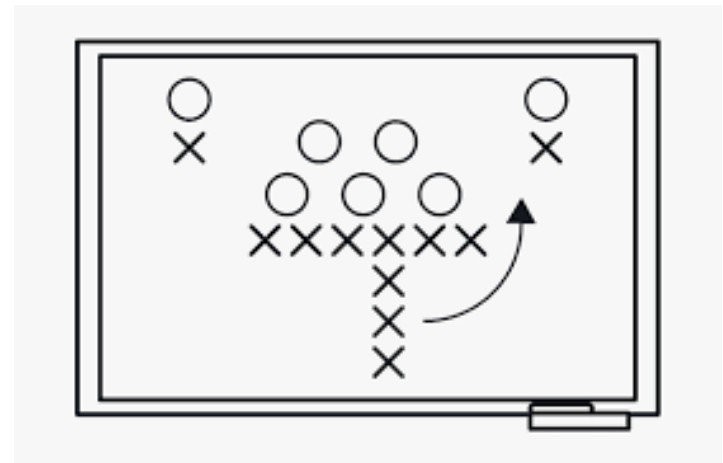




# *Controlling Weeds in turf without pesticides*

## Have a plan!

- Work to address cultural issues
- Identify your problem weeds
- Pre-emergence control is easier



# *Controlling Annual Grassy Weeds in turf*

## Why do I have weeds in my turf?

- Soil ph
- Compaction
- Excessive moisture
- Shade
- Cultural practices
- Poor fertility



# *Annual Weeds in turf*

## What are “annual weeds?”

- Annual weeds are weeds that germinate from seed, mature and die in under 12 months.

## Winter Annuals

- Germinate in the fall, overwinter as plants, mature in the spring, flower set seed and die during the summer.

## Summer Annuals

- Germinate in the spring, grow throughout summer, flower and set seed in late summer, die in the fall.



# Weeds in turf

Corn Gluten  
Herbicidal Soaps  
Salt and Vinegar based herbicide



## Best Practices for controlling weeds organically

- Pre emergent control is best
- Mow turf at least 3" high
- Time mowing to prevent weeds from going to seed
- Spot spray and overseed to encourage turf density
- Maintain ideal turf fertility



# ***RE IMAGINING THE HOME LAWN***



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What is the purpose or function of your home lawn?



# *Re Imagining the Home Lawn*





# *Re Imagining the Home Lawn*

- Groundcovers
- Prairie Grasses
- Plant a Tree or Trees
- Flower Beds
- Vegetable Garden
- Very low maintenance turfgrasses such as fine fescues or buffalograss



# *Groundcovers*

- Creeping Thyme
- Moss
- Pachysandra
- Creeping Jenny
- Liriope
- Periwinkle (vinca minor)
- Phlox
- English Ivy
- Miniature Brass Buttons
- clover



***THANK YOU!!!!!!***

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