

# The Log Living Gazette<sup>©</sup>

Morningdale Log Homes LLC.

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## ABOUT US

*Morningdale Log Homes LLC. is the area's only Authorized Representative for Timberhaven Log Homes LLC.  
Our service area includes Western Pennsylvania, Northwestern New York and Eastern Ohio.*

## UPCOMING SCHEDULED PUBLIC EVENTS

- Sunday March, 31, 2019 1PM-4PM: **Open Model Home**
- Sunday April 28, 2019, 1PM-4PM: **Open Model Home**
- Sunday May 26, 2019, 1PM-4PM: **Open Model Home**

## WEBSITE

If you haven't visited the [Morningdale Log Homes website](#) in a while, you might want to visit it again. We have added several features that may be of interest to you including Clients' log or timber frame home photos and at least monthly additions to our Blog page. We are also adding and updating the content regularly, so you should check it often as you never know what special offers or useful information we may have for you!

## SPECIAL SERIES ON LAWNS AND LANDSCAPING

With Spring almost here, everyone is preparing to do lawn maintenance and flower planting to beautify their homes, whether they be conventional homes, log homes or timber frame homes. With that in mind, we contacted Jason and De Howles of [Blooming Valley Landscape and Supply](#) and they have agreed to provide us with a series of articles written by one of their horticulturists, Wes McWilliams. Here is the first installment of that series, keep visiting our website for the rest of this series.

## **Aerating and Overseeding Your Lawn**

*(1<sup>st</sup> in a Series of Landscaping Articles, Reproduced with Permission)*

By: Wesley McWilliams, [Blooming Valley Landscaping and Supply](#)

If you want to have a great looking lawn, aerating and overseeding are two practices you should incorporate into your lawn care program. Ask any golf course superintendent how important aerating and overseeding their tees, greens, and fairways is, and I'm pretty sure

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they will say it's very important. There are many benefits to both, whether your lawn is young or mature. Unfortunately, many lawn care programs focus on fertilization and weed control while ignoring the importance of aerating and overseeding. Not only is aerating and overseeding important, it is an environmentally friendly way to improve your lawn.

The process of aerating a lawn involves mechanically removing cores (plugs) of soil, using hollow tines, throughout the lawn. Aerating should not be confused with spiking a lawn. Spiking involves using solid tines, and can actually increase compaction as the soil is pushed by the solid tine into a denser mass. Aerating provides an excellent means of alleviating soil compaction, improving water and nutrient penetration, and improving gaseous exchange between the soil and the atmosphere. Soil compaction can occur in any soil, but generally speaking, soils with higher clay content tend to compact more than soils with a higher sand content. Practices such as mowing or lawn rolling can compact the soil. A compacted layer of soil as little as a half inch in thickness can be detrimental to turfgrass health and vigor. Many soils in our region contain high amounts of clay, and therefore, aeration becomes even more important. In addition, aerating then topdressing a lawn with organic rich soil can help amend poor soil conditions. It is best to aerate in either the spring, early fall, or both. Summer time aerations should be avoided as the turf typically is in a semi-dormant state while certain weeds, including crabgrass, are actively growing. Overseeding should be done just after you have completed the aeration.

The benefits to overseeding an unhealthy or patchy lawn are obvious, but even a nice lawn will benefit from overseeding. As a turfgrass plant matures, it slows down in its capacity to produce new tillers. On average, a blade of grass will last one to two months. In order to maintain a nice looking lawn, production of new tillers must outpace the die-back of older tillers. By overseeding the lawn, you are essentially introducing new and more vigorous turfgrass plants to increase the production rate of new tillers. Overseeding can also be used to introduce better varieties of turfgrass into an existing lawn. New and improved varieties of turfgrass are constantly being researched and developed. Many new varieties are bred to have certain characteristics such as being more resistant to draught or pests. By introducing improved turf species into your lawn, you are increasing the capability of the lawn to survive stress. The best time to overseed is in the early fall, as weather conditions are generally favorable for turf development. You may also want to consider applying a slow release granular starter fertilizer just after overseeding. Aerating and overseeding can make the difference between having a so-so lawn, or having a great one!

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Wes is the account manager at [Blooming Valley Landscape & Supply](#). He has a B.S. in [Turfgrass Science from Penn State University](#) and is a former ISA Certified Arborist and PA Certified Horticulturist. You can contact Wes with questions at: [Blooming Valley Landscape & Supply](#), 24213 Highway 77, Meadville, PA 16335, via email at [wes@bolas.com](mailto:wes@bolas.com), or by phone at 814.724.5296*



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