

February 2009 Master Gardener On-line Quiz
Thatch — Enemy of Lawns



Objectives:

- increase attendance** at monthly Master Gardener Meetings
- improve reporting** of volunteer hours
- provide Continuing Education** for Master Gardeners ... we raised the quiz CE to 1/2 hour
- learn about** maintaining your lawn
- utilize** your MU Guides

Instructions:

- read [Thatch — Enemy of Lawns \(MU Guide G 6708\)](#)
- print the quiz on pages 2-3 of this attachment and answer the questions
- answer keys will be at the January meeting ... your answer sheets will be collected and not returned
- 70% or better correctly answered questions earn 1/2 hours of CE but you must be in attendance
- fill out a timesheet and hand in at meeting ... use the education column on your time sheet, code 14 or go to <http://momgreports.rijacob.com/> to report your CE credit.

February 2009 Master Gardener On-line Quiz

Name: _____

Read MU Horticulture Guide [Thatch – Enemy of Lawns \(MU Guide G 6708\)](#)

True or False

- ___ 1. Thatch is a layer of living and dead roots, crowns, and lower shoots that often develops in lawns.
- ___ 2. Thatch may develop over several years before noticeable damage occurs.
- ___ 3. Zoysia grass and Bermuda grass lawns are usually hardest and quickest hit by a build up of thatch layers.
- ___ 4. Coring to remove thatch can cause severe soil compaction.
- ___ 5. In cases of severe thatch, removal should be done over two or three years rather than one aggressive treatment.
- ___ 6. To encourage the decay of thatch you can top-dress every one or two years with 1/4 inch of weed free manure or soil to encourage decay of thatch.
- ___ 7. Lawn improvement practices should be done one to two weeks following dethatching.
- ___ 8. Lawns can be dethatched at any time during the year.
- ___ 9. As thatch builds up, the roots of new grass plants grow within the thatch layer rather than in the soil.
- ___ 10. To help prevent thatch you should water ever seven days, or as needed in dry periods, to encourage deep rooting.
- ___ 11. It's best to power rake bluegrass in early fall.
- ___ 12. If mowing occurs at regular intervals clippings may be left to decompose but excessive clippings should be removed.
- ___ 13. After core aerating your lawn you should remove the cores by raking..
- ___ 14. A spring-tine power rake will remove about 1/2 inch of thatch.

Multiple choice:

- _____ 15. Lawns should be dethatched only when
- A. conditions favor rapid turf recovery.
 - B. there is more than 2 inches of developed thatch.
 - C. the moon is full.
 - D. earthworms are dormant.
- _____ 16. Which of the following dethatching techniques causes less lawn stress?
- A. Vertical mower
 - B. Coring
 - C. Power rake
- _____ 17. After a severe dethatching if crabgrass becomes a problem you should use
- A. An herbicide containing benefin.
 - B. An herbicide containing trifluralin.
 - C. An herbicide containing pendimethalin.
 - D. An herbicide that is a MSMA postemergent.
- _____ 18. When top-dressing
- A. Use 1/4-inch of manure
 - B. Use 1/4-inch of soil as an alternative to manure
 - C. Use manure or soil that is weed-free
 - D. Use manure or soil that is similar in texture to the existing soil
 - E. All of the above
- _____ 19. Core aerating
- A. removes about 1/4 inch of thatch.
 - B. leaves a good seedbed with channels for seed entry.
 - C. improves penetration of water and fertilizer.
 - D. spreads soil on the surface of the lawn.
 - E. Answers C and D
- _____ 20. Thatch
- A. all of the following answers are correct
 - B. Can weaken and even destroy a lawn.
 - C. Results when plants are produced faster than they can decay.
 - D. Harbors disease-causing fungi and insects.
 - E. Retards movement of air, water and nutrients into the soil.

14 or more correct answers is passing ... record 1/2 hour and use code 14 in the education column of your time sheet or go to <http://momgreports.rijacob.com/> to report your CE credit ... don't forget to hand in both this answer sheet and your time sheet ... please put your name on both.

