**First Aid In The Case Of Drought Damage!**

**The past few months have been exceptionally dry. Grass has turned progressively from green to yellow, and from yellow to brown. Is there still life left in your lawn? What do you have to do to get your lawn nice and green again, and what are the threats lurking around the corner? You can find the answers to these questions in this Barenbrug first-aid special. This exclusive step-by-step plan is the key to recreating a healthy, vital lawn in no time!**

**Step 1: Test vitality!**

When the temperature exceeds 25 ℃, lots of grass species become dormant. Different types of grass vary enormously; some can survive extreme heat and drought, others die. Carry out the following simple test to find out whether the grass in your lawn is still alive.

**Vitality test:**

1. Cut a small piece of turf from your lawn with a spade.

2. Place it in a bucket of water and allow the turf to completely saturate.

3. Drain the water from the bucket, but leave the piece of turf in it.

4. If white root shoots develop at the bottom of the piece of turf after 2 or 3 days, the grass is still alive.

**Conclusion to step 1: White or brown shoots?**

Grass that develops white root shoots can recover in the presence of moisture. If no new white roots develop between the brown roots, the grass has probably not survived the heat and drought.

**Note: Beware!**

If existing grass is very weak or dead, there’s lots of room for new plants to thrive, but this can allow meadow grass or weeds to take hold. There are probably lots of seeds of these unwanted intruders in the soil that will germinate in the presence of moisture. If you don’t help your lawn recover, these plants can take over, leaving an ugly, dilapidated lawn.

**Step 2: Test water resistance**

Vitality is no guarantee that your lawn will recover; it’s also essential that the underlying soil absorbs water. If the soil repels water, your lawn will not recover, even if it rains or if you water it. Soil can become water repellent due to hydric stress in the grass, other plants and soil organisms during hot and dry periods. As a result, water can no longer penetrate the soil, or only in certain places. Water-repellent soil therefore makes it even more difficult for a lawn to recover, since rain cannot reach the roots. This water repellence has to be resolved first.

**Drop test:**

The following test gives a good idea of whether soil is water-repellent:

Remove a plug of grass with a scoop or gouge.

Place a drop of water on the plug at every 2 cm depth.

If it takes more than 1 minute for the drop to penetrate the soil, the soil is too water-repellent for the lawn to recover normally. Sowing with normal grass seed will have no effect.

**Conclusion to step 2: water-repellent or not?**

If the soil is water-repellent, seeding with a normal grass seed mixture makes no sense! Water cannot reach the seed for germination and any germinated seeds cannot become a plant if water cannot reach the roots. Barenbrug has a solution for water-repellent soils: Yellow Jacket Water Manager! This revolutionary seed treatment with Yellow Jacket Water Manager neutralises water repellence and also prevents it recurring while the young grass plants grow into mature plants (establishment period). Your turf will be strong and vital once more, with healthy young plants.

**Repair drought damage in lawns**

With our exclusive step-by-step plan, you can create a healthy vital turf again in no time!

**1. Scarify your lawn to remove any dead grass and felt.**

**2. Poke small holes in the soil so that air and water can penetrate.**

**3. Choose the right mixture of grass seeds for sowing**

Lots of different mixtures of grass seeds are available for sowing lawns. For each situation, there’s an ideal solution, but not all seed mixtures are suitable for a lawn to recover quickly. In addition, the danger of weeds taking over is always lurking around the corner! There are lots of weed seeds in the soil that can fill any vacant spots at lightning speed. Meadow grass also takes over vacated areas rapidly and weakens the lawn. It’s therefore imperative that you use a grass seed mixture that germinates and establishes itself rapidly, so that it can compete against this unwanted invasion. Bar Power RPR is the most versatile and rapid mixture, and can provide a dense cover of grass in no time.

**Step 3: Restore your turf with RPR!**

RPR, a hardwearing self-healing English ryegrass, is in many cases the fastest and best solution for drought damage. With its spreading, horizontal stolons for extremely fast sward recovery, this type of grass is unique. In addition, it is many times stronger than other perennial ryegrasses. This grass seed also germinates very quickly, making it the fastest and most versatile solution. It gives weeds and annual meadow grass much less chance to take over.

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