

Weekly Newsletter
from Agresource Inc.
for turning waste into
opportunity

Bottom Line

The shift from brown to green is a natural and cyclical process driven by environmental cues and plant biology. What looks like a lifeless lawn in winter is actually a resilient system waiting for the right conditions to thrive again. As temperatures rise and sunlight returns, grass resumes its essential functions—capturing energy, growing, and restoring the lush green landscapes we associate with spring.

www.agresourceinc.com

info@agresourceinc.com



*“Nature does not hurry,
yet everything is
accomplished.”*

— Lao Tzu

How Grass Goes from Brown to Green in the Spring

Each spring, lawns that looked dull and lifeless through the winter begin to turn vibrant green again. This transformation isn't just cosmetic, it's the result of biological processes inside the grass plant responding to changes in temperature, sunlight, and soil conditions.

During the winter, most cool-season grasses (like Kentucky bluegrass, fescues, and ryegrass) enter a state of dormancy. Dormancy is a survival mechanism. As temperatures drop and daylight hours shorten, grass plants slow their growth, stop producing new leaves, and conserve energy. Chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the green color, breaks down causing grass to appear brown or tan. The grass is not dead; it is simply inactive above ground while its root system remains alive below the surface.

As spring arrives, several environmental triggers signal the grass to “wake up.” One of the most important is soil temperature. When soil temperatures consistently rise into the 40–50°F range, root systems become active again. At the same time, longer daylight hours provide more sunlight, which is essential for photosynthesis, turning light into energy.

With the proper conditions in place, grass plants begin producing chlorophyll again. Chlorophyll absorbs sunlight and gives grass its green color. As photosynthesis ramps up, the plant generates the energy it needs to grow new blades and repair winter damage. This is why lawns often shift from patchy brown to light green, and eventually to a lush, uniform green over several weeks.

Moisture also plays a critical role. Spring rains help rehydrate soil that may have been frozen or dry, making water more available to roots. Water is a key component of photosynthesis and nutrient transport within the plant. Additionally, soil microbes become more active as temperatures warm, breaking down organic matter and releasing nutrients like nitrogen. Nitrogen is especially important because it is a major component of chlorophyll.

Human management can also influence how quickly grass greens up. Light raking to remove thatch, proper fertilization, and avoiding excessive foot traffic on soggy soils can all support healthy spring recovery. Patience is key, forcing growth too early with heavy fertilizer applications can stress the plant. The transition isn't always perfect, some areas of your lawn green up faster than others due to differences in soil composition, drainage, sunlight exposure, or even variations in grass species.

