



Land Care, Organically . . .

Lawn Cutting Tips:

First Adjust your mower height for your lawn. For most grasses, a healthy height is going to be around 3 inches.

Second Make sure your mower blades are SHARP. Lawns can be severely damaged, even ruined, by being shredded by a dull or improperly adjusted mower. Rotary blades should be sharpened and balanced frequently. Makes your job easier, prolongs mower life, and keeps your lawn happier.

Third Cut often so you Do Not Cut Off More Than 1/3 of the grass blade at a cutting. If your lawn has become very long, cut higher first, then re-cut three to four days later, until the height is back to normal. You can kill your lawn by scalping it. Besides, it looks terrible. Brown is a funny color for grass.

Fourth Try to leave the clippings, if they aren't bunching up in clumps which can smother the grass. This will return nutrients to the soil.

If you cut wet grass, it will not cut easily or distribute the clippings. Wet Clippings tend to bunch together, requiring raking. So, try to cut your lawn when it is dry.



Don't forget!

- Refer a friend or neighbor and receive 10% off your next program application*.
- Pre-Pay season in advance and receive 10% off entire season*.
- Want to tell your neighbors you are using Organic Land Care? Ask us for one of our lawn signs.

Watering Efficiently

A healthy lawn makes a very good filter for absorbing many things that can be washed into our streams. The ideal lawn is one that will grow best in your environment without lots of supplemental watering. We have all probably read about people living in desert areas in the country trying to grow lawns that require almost daily watering just to survive the summer heat. This is extremely foolish and short-sighted. Turf grasses were never intended to be grown everywhere.

That being said, there are parts of the country where various turf grasses are well suited without the need for daily watering. In many places, grass can be grown without any supplemental watering, or only very minor supplemental watering. The following information is specifically intended for those areas.

Continued Next Page . . .



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How much water does a lawn need?

In general, **turf grasses need about 3/4" — 1"** of water per week to maintain green color and active growth. However, during certain times during the summer when high temperatures are the norm, you should allow lawns to naturally slow down in growth during those extreme conditions. You may let the lawn go almost completely dormant in hot weather. Many factors such as the soil and weather all have a role in the lawn's water needs. Here are a few guidelines to follow:

- When is it time to water?** The first few warm days of summer does not automatically mean to water lawns. In fact, allowing lawns to start to go under mild drought stress actually increases rooting. Watch for foot printing, or footprints remaining on the lawn after walking across it (instead of leaf blades bouncing back up). Grasses also tend to turn darker in color as they go under drought stress. Sampling the root zone soil could be another option.
- Water as infrequently as possible.** Thoroughly water when you do water so moisture soaks down to the roots. Exceptions to this general rule would be for newly seeded lawns where the surface needs to stay moist, newly sodded lawns that have not yet rooted into the soil, or when summer patch disease is a problem. Otherwise, **avoid frequent waterings** that promote shallower root systems and weeds (e.g., crabgrass).
- Water early in the day if possible.** Given a choice, water early in the day when lawns are normally wet from dew. Avoid midday watering due to excessive evaporation, and at night due to potential increased chances of some diseases gaining a foothold. The exception to this guide is when you are in extremely hot weather and nighttime temperatures don't go below 68 degrees. Then it is better to water in the late afternoon or early evening, providing you don't have watering-time restrictions. Early or late in the day reduces the amount of evaporation that takes place during the very hot day, allowing more water to reach the root zone.
- Spread the water uniformly across the lawn.** Sprinklers vary in distribution patterns, and require spray overlap for uniform coverage. Placing coffee cans or similar straight-sided containers on the lawn can help measure water application rates. Avoid flooding areas, or missing other spots. On heavy clay soils and slopes, watch for excessive runoff; it may be necessary to apply the water in several applications to allow for adequate penetration.
- Avoid over watering.** Use a rain gauge to measure how much water you're applying. Over watering does more than deplete the water supply, it also makes plants prone to pests and adds to storm water runoff, which pollutes our water systems. By choosing and operating a watering system correctly, you can reduce water bills, insect and disease problems, and maintenance requirements. For example, the more you water your lawn, the faster it grows and the more it needs to be mowed.

