

Lawn Care Guide

Raise mower height one inch in June, July, and August.

April and May: Roots of cool season lawns (blue grass, fescue) are deep now. Apply supplemental water in the absence of natural rainfall -- about an inch per week. Water deeply and infrequently.

June: Roots of cool season lawns begin to slough off for the summer. Apply supplemental water in the absence of rainfall -- about 1.25 inches per week. Water more frequently and more shallow than in spring.

July and August: Roots of cool season lawns are at their shallowest point of the season. Apply supplemental water in the absence of rainfall -- about 1.5 inches per week. Water to the depth of the root system (usually about 2 inches deep). Water more frequently and more shallow than in spring.

September and October: Roots of cool season lawns are deep now. Water deeply and infrequently. Apply supplemental water in the absence of rainfall -- about an inch per week.

Tips to Help Conserve Water when Watering Lawn:

1. Measure the amount of water applied to your lawn in a 15-minute period using collection devices such as a tuna or coffee can. Adjust the run time on your sprinkler system to deliver the required amount. Contact a lawn care professional if you need help.
2. When watering on a slope, use "delayed starts." Run your sprinkler until you notice runoff, then stop. Wait three hours, and then resume. Aerate every year or so to increase infiltration.
3. Water in the early morning, 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., to allow grass blades to dry, making them less susceptible to foliar diseases. Watering is more efficient in the morning due to less evaporation and wind speed. Don't water if it's windy.
4. Observe your sprinkler system once a week. Look for heads that don't turn, heads that spray the street or sidewalk, bent or damaged heads, clogged or worn nozzles or orifices, turf growth around heads that impede water delivery, compaction, and run-off.
5. During hot weather, run your sprinklers 5 to 10 minutes per zone during the day to cool the turf and reduce stress. This is called syringing, and it reduces the symptoms of summer patch disease.
6. Create water zones by putting plants with similar water needs together. Ornamental plants can be grouped into low, moderate and high water users. Each zone of plants can be irrigated according to its needs.
7. Focus on growing drought-tolerant plants. Once established, a number of beautiful plants, native and non-native, can survive with less than an inch of water a week.
8. Adjust sprinklers to aim water directly at plants rather than sidewalks, paths, driveways, or fences. Use sprinklers that emit large droplets to reduce losses due to evaporation.
9. Install drip-irrigation systems and soaker hoses in flower and vegetable gardens, around trees and shrubs, and containers.
10. Mulch to slow evaporation of moisture from the soil and keep the soil cool. Mulches should be applied no deeper than 3-4 inches. Excessively deep mulches will stimulate root growth in the mulch layer. These roots are more likely to experience winter and drought injury than those growing in soil. Stay with organic mulches, which slowly break down and add organic matter to the soil.
11. In hot, dry weather use a broom instead of water to clean patios, sidewalks, and driveways.
12. Improve the soil to hold more water and oxygen by adding organic matter. Mix grass clippings and leaves into flowerbeds, vegetable gardens, or newly worked soil. Start a compost pile to recycle yard waste back to the garden.

