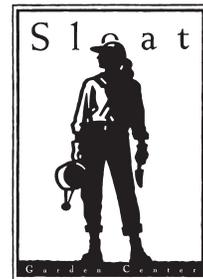


LAWN CARE



Many people think of lawn care as an odious task to be done only after weeks of procrastination. If maintenance is done properly and regularly it becomes less of a chore and might even be enjoyable. Here are some seasonal guidelines to help you throughout the year.

SPRING

Reseed bare spots. Mow weekly, keeping the cutting height of the mower blade no lower than 2". Increase watering as growth becomes more rapid. Fertilize early in the season and then again about a month later. Control weeds if needed. If lush growth is slow in coming, supplement fertilizer with extra iron. De-thatch and aerate if needed early in the season.

SUMMER

Mow regularly as temperatures rise. Increase mowing height to 3" in order to discourage weeds and improve the lawn's drought and heat tolerance. Water slowly, deeply and infrequently to reduce weeds and keep the grass healthy. Fertilize monthly into June but taper off during the hottest weather. Aerate if necessary to improve water penetration.

FALL

Reseed while the soil is still warm. Mow often, especially if the lawn is growing vigorously. Reduce watering as weather cools. Fertilize monthly with a Fall and Winter formula. De-thatch if needed early in the fall, then fertilize. Control weeds while the weather is still warm.

WINTER

Mow, water, and fertilize sparingly as needed. Aerate if needed, but do not de-thatch. Control weeds with a pre-emergent herbicide if necessary. Keep an eye out for fungal diseases during the rainy season. If mushrooms should start popping up, remove them with a rake, not your bare hands as they could be poisonous even though they are not harmful to the lawn. If there is concern, applying agricultural lime will eradicate them.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS

Always keep your mower blades sharp. Grass cut with a dull mower is more disease prone and less attractive. Don't mow grass when it's wet as some of the grass blades will be lying down and your mowing job will look uneven when it dries. Don't mow too short! You can scalp the lawn, which will expose roots and create bare spots. (You also expose the tender tillers of the grass to sunburn.) Water early in the day. Late watering encourages fungal growth. Avoid overfertilization. It can burn the roots of the grass. Don't allow weeds to take hold. Remember...

IF YOU GIVE A WEED AN INCH - IT WILL TAKE A YARD!

PLANT WATER GROW