

LAWN MAINTENANCE

There are 6 main factors to consider with lawn care.

Watering is the first task we will discuss. The importance of a lawn to have healthy growth, high quality, and good color requires regular watering. Typically, in the spring and fall, Mother Nature provides us with enough rainfall to be sufficient. It is during the summer when we may have extended drought periods. This is the time when the grass shows signs of wilting and browning that we need to provide water to our lawns. It is best to water more, less frequently. Moisten the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. This encourages deeper rooting and decreased disease, weed development, and insect damage. Morning or midday watering is recommended to minimize disease activity.

Mowing is another important factor required to maintain a quality lawn. Regular mowing at the right height will help develop a dense, healthy lawn. The proper mowing height depends on the species of grass but the average for most grasses is 2 inches. Cutting the grass shorter than 2 inches decreases the amount of leaf surface area required for photosynthesis, reduces the depth of root growth, and decreases the shading effect on the base of the plant. Some other hints for mowing are to alternate mowing directions, pick-up sticks and stones before mowing, and be careful not to scalp any high spots in the lawn.

A **fertilization** program is also necessary to maintain a high quality lawn. The ideal program should provide uniform growth over the entire growing season. Lawns need to be fertilized every 8-10 weeks throughout the growing season. This results in 4-5 applications per year. These applications usually are April-May, June-July, August-September, and October-November/ December. Late season fertilizations are the most effective. Stop in and visit with our friendly and knowledgeable staff to set up the right program for your lawn.

Controlling weeds, insects, and diseases in the lawn are the final 3 factors considered when maintaining a healthy, vigorous lawn. With the proper watering, mowing, and fertilizing most of these problems can be avoided. If the lawn becomes troubled by these pests, talk to our sales staff about the right solution. We carry a variety of effective products targeting the proper control of specific weeds, insects, and diseases. These curatives are intended for home use, and when used according to the directions offer very good results.

We offer many kinds of bulk grass seed, starter fertilizer, top soil and all of the hand tools and spreaders necessary to prep your soil for new seeding or for over-seeding projects. We also carry fresh Bluegrass sod in season and a nice assortment of watering wands, sprinklers, and hoses to insure that your grass stays healthy and green in the hot summer months.

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