

Go for Gold!

Plan to let your lawn go golden this summer. Turf grass naturally goes dormant in the summer in response to warm, dry conditions, and turns green again when the rains return.

Go Pesticide Free

Many pest and weed problems can be overcome by taking care of your lawn. If your lawn is susceptible to disease try overseeding with a mix of perennial rye grass, this will help choke out weeds and is relatively pest resistant. Products like Weed & Feed are harmful to the overall health of your lawn, killing beneficial organisms and leading to thatch build up.

helpful websites

For more information on irrigation professionals and on proper watering schedules, check out the Irrigation Industry Association of British Columbia's website:

www.irrigationbc.com

For lawn alternatives:

www.lesslawn.com

Healthy lawn ideas:

eartheasy.com/grow_lawn_care.htm



Why not share
these friendly tips with
your neighbour?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 250 390 6560

Toll Free 1-877-607-4111

Email: watersmart@rdn.bc.ca



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HEALTHY LAWN CARE



Your lawn needs **AT MOST** 1 inch of water each week, including rainfall. Watering deeply and infrequently encourages resilient lawns.

Healthy Lawn Starts with Your Soil

water deeply and infrequently

OF WATER EACH WEEK, INCLUDING RAINFALL

Water efficient lawn care is a great way to conserve water and is also beneficial to the health of your lawn.

During the summer, water use doubles to triples in the region. As a result, local purveyors must place outdoor watering restrictions when there are prolonged periods of hot weather.

start in the spring

Work on building a healthy lawn

which will require less water, less maintenance and be less likely to lose its lush colour during the summer.

Aerating your lawn allows oxygen and water to get directly to the root zone. It also provides pores

aerate & top dress

for organic soil amendments to collect and mix with existing soils, and room for new seeds to germinate. To improve soil health **add a ¼ inch layer of quality compost to your lawn each spring.**

feed your lawn

Compost feeds the beneficial microbes in the soil, which in turn feeds your lawn, making nutrients available for uptake by the grass. Healthy soil means healthy grass that can out-compete weeds. If you plan on using commercial fertilizers, it is best to use a slow release formula. This will help to prevent chemicals from entering our streams, waterways and aquifers.

YOUR LAWN NEEDS AT MOST 1 INCH

use water efficiently

Over watering is one of the leading causes of lawn problems. Too much water starves the soil of oxygen, invites disease, creates runoff and weakens your lawn. **Watering deeply and infrequently will help promote a robust lawn** with healthy root growth resulting in your lawn requiring less water year round.



over seed

Re-seed your lawn each year. Ask your local nursery for advice when choosing seeds. It is best to get

a mix which includes Perennial Rye Grass and Fine Fescues because they require less water, nutrients and maintenance than straight Kentucky Bluegrass. If one area of your yard has never adapted well to grass, try planting a different form of ground cover like creeping thyme, micro-clover, mosses or sedums.

mow high

Leave your lawn long - remove only 1/3 of the grass each time you mow. **Longer lawns help promote deep root growth** and will provide shade for the soil, preventing evaporation. An ideal length for your grass should be around 2.5 to 3 inches high.



grass cycle

Try leaving the grass clippings on your lawn, as they are a beneficial fertilizer to your lawn. **Grass clippings can provide 30% of the nitrogen that your lawn needs** each summer as well as provide moisture. Nitrogen, one of the three main components of fertilizer, is used to promote growth. Grass cycling will not create thatch build-up.



keep your mower in shape

Make sure that your blades are sharp. Dull blades will rip the grass, not cut it, leading to disease and discoloration. Taking care of your mower will also increase its lifespan.

THE ABBREVIATED

To Do List:

- START IN THE SPRING
- WATER DEEPLY & INFREQUENTLY
- AERATE & TOP DRESS
- FOCUS ON SOIL HEALTH
- RE-SEED YOUR LAWN EACH YEAR
- CUT ONLY THE TOP 1/3
- LEAVE CLIPPINGS ON YOUR LAWN

