

TIPS FOR IMPROVING THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF YOUR LAWN.

Proper care of an established lawn does more than affect the immediate appearance of the turf; it also affects the turf's long-term health and ability to resist pest attacks. Follow this tip to help meet these goals.

WATERING

The objective of watering practices should be to conserve water, while sustaining healthy turf.

While natural rainfall is usually sufficient to meet turf needs throughout the early and late part of the growing season, mid-summer droughts are common and turf requirements are not met by rainfall alone. During periods of drought the turf will become dormant. Dormancy is nature's way of dealing with prolonged stress caused by heat and lack of moisture. The turf will stop growing and turn brown and often appears dead. Not to worry though; as the temperatures reduce and adequate rainfall returns, so too does the turf. The turf will once again begin to grow and return to its natural color. It may however be more difficult to detect insect damage in a dormant lawn.

If a dormant lawn is not desirable and the decision has been made to water through a dry period, then it should be done as efficiently as possible to conserve water and obtain the best results.

Water deeply and infrequently. Deep watering promotes deeper roots and therefore, turf that can better tolerate drought. In contrast, frequent light watering encourages the development of shallow roots, and should be avoided.

Apply 1 - 1 ½ inches (25 - 35mm) per week during dry periods.

Early morning is the ideal time for watering. It minimizes the loss of water through evaporation and wind. In contrast, watering in the evening leaves the turf wet for longer periods and can increase the risk of disease.

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