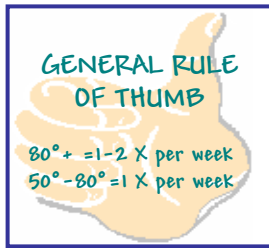


Lawn Care Fertilization Program - Frequently Asked Questions



How often, how much and when should my lawn be watered? To ensure healthy turf growth one thing is essential: WATER! Without the proper amount of water, lawns are likely to fall victim to stress. Improperly watered lawns are also likely to succumb to weed infestation. However, it is possible for your lawn to get too much of a good thing. Although over-watered lawns may temporarily appear green and healthy, they often suffer from shallow root systems and high levels of disease & fungus activity. Most lawns require 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week to stay healthy. To prevent disease and fungus conditions early morning is the preferred time to water. This allows more time for the turf to dry

before night fall. Infrequent, deep watering is the best practice to follow. Please be aware that these are only general guidelines, and are to be continually adjusted according to turf type, soil composition, drainage conditions and weather conditions.

Are there visual clues that my lawn needs to be irrigated? Under most circumstances, your lawn's appearance will dictate when to water. You should water within one day if you notice any of the following conditions: turf color has a purple-blue cast and is wilting, footprints remain on the lawn, or grass blades are folded or rolled.

Now that spring is coming, what is the timing and sequence of weed control and fertilization? To be effective, weed controls must be applied when weeds are actively growing, soil moisture is adequate, and temperatures are moderate. Therefore broadleaf weed controls are most effective during the spring and fall. When pre-emergent crabgrass controls are applied re-seeding should be postponed until fall. Pre-emergent control products will stop crabgrass from developing later in the year, but will also prevent new grass seed from germinating. This is why fall over-seeding is crucial to encourage new turf growth where the weeds previously existed. Your lawn also needs a balance of nutrients containing nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium to keep it healthy and strong. While most soils contain some of these elements, they usually become depleted over the years. During its growing season turf has high fertilizer requirements. A single application of slow release turf fertilizer supplies adequate nutrient requirements for 1 – 2 months. Proper fertilizing with balanced applications throughout the growing season promotes thick, dense grass that will resist disease and weed invasions.

What are grubs, and why should I be worried about them? Grubs are the larvae of beetles that feed on turf roots throughout the summer. They are C-shaped, whitish in color and about 1 ¼ inch in length. The damage they cause usually shows up in late summer to early fall, but effective treatment involves a season long spring control application. To check for grubs simply peel back a small area of turf. If you discover more than 6 to 8 grubs per square foot, you have a problem. Other signs are:



- Turf begins to wilt and turn brown
- Turf feels soft and spongy
- Skunks & raccoons excavate turf searching for grubs. Mole activity increases and evidenced by tunnels in turf.

What are the benefits of aeration & over-seeding? *Aeration*, the process of removing thumb-sized cores from the soil, is essential to provide greater oxygen exchange to the roots of your turf. Aeration increases microbial activity in the soil leading to improved vigor of your lawn. By the way, don't worry about the unsightly cores on your lawn following the process, they will naturally decompose over time and do not require removal. The many benefits of aeration include:

- Reduced soil compaction, increased water penetration into the soil and decreased storm water surface runoff
- Reduced thatch (the dead layer of organic material on the surface of the soil) and improved gas exchange
- Improved effectiveness of fertilizers & pesticides

Over-seeding should be performed following aeration each and every year to encourage new turf growth. By thickening your stand of turf, weeds are naturally pushed out creating a more luscious lawn. Deehan Landscaping performs slice seeding to increase seed germination rate by ensuring direct seed to soil contact. These services are best performed in late summer to early fall.

Why is irrigation important for newly seeded lawns? *This is the most crucial step in successful turf establishment!* Newly seeded



lawn areas require light daily watering, but not to the point of run off or seed displacement. The soil must be kept evenly moist during the germination period (typically about 21-30 days- *if properly watered*). If the seedlings dry out during this time, they will die and new turf establishment will not occur under these conditions. Following germination watering must continue but on a less frequent basis. Deep and infrequent watering intervals are preferred. It is generally recommended to provide at least 1 inch of surface water per week thereafter during the growing season. To discourage development of turf diseases, watering should be done as early in the morning as possible.

How do I take care of my recently seeded lawn? Mowing should be suspended for approximately 2-4 weeks. *If straw has been applied as mulch, please do not remove it at any time.* Please note; when leaf clean up becomes necessary, it is best to carefully remove the leaves with a leaf blower rather than a rake. Raking may pull the delicate new turf out by the roots.

Is there something that can be done to improve turf quality in shady areas, poorly drained areas or root infested areas? Perhaps we may be able to help with general improvements; however these conditions all prove very difficult for healthy turf establishment. These concerns need to be addressed on a site by site basis. Please call if you would like to discuss your particular concerns.