

The Other Side

Lawn Service

Lawn Care Tips

Watering

The Grass is Always Greener on 'The Other Side'

Irrigation is a necessary part of maintaining a healthy and vigorous lawn in our part of the country. However, poor irrigation practices can often do as much harm to turfgrass as good. Following these simple steps will help assure your lawn thrives through the hot summer months.

Watering at the proper time of day. The best time to water your lawn is between the hours of 5am and 9am. Demand is lowest on municipal water systems during this period, and wind and evaporative losses are low. Mid-day watering, while not harmful to your lawn is not as efficient do to higher average winds and higher evaporation rates. AVOID watering in the early evenings or at night whenever possible. Water remains on the leaf surface over night and greatly increases the likely hood of disease development.

Adjust watering amounts to the climate. During the heat of mid summer, when rainfall amounts are low, Kentucky Bluegrass lawns need about 1" of water per week to remain healthy. Tall Fescue and Buffalo Grass lawns need slightly less. In the spring and fall when temperatures are lower and rainfall is more plentiful, lawns can get by with as little as ½" inch.

Watering Frequency. Thorough and infrequent watering (i.e. every 4 – 7 days) helps your lawn develop a deep extensive root system. Frequent watering (daily or every other day) results in a shallow root system that actually leaves your lawn more prone to heat and drought stress and damage from disease and insects.

Hot spots, exposed and shady areas. Areas along concrete sidewalks, driveways, streets and foundations are subjected to greater amounts of reflected heat and light. These areas are also often times the most difficult to water thoroughly. Underground lawn sprinkler systems often times do not do an adequate job of applying water to these areas. Supplemental, manual watering may be necessary to keep these areas properly irrigated. Conversely, shady areas such as under trees, which are not exposed to long hours of direct sunlight require much less water and in fact do better with less irrigation.

Diseases and insects. Early symptoms of many lawn diseases and insect infestations are often times mistakenly thought to be a result of too little water. Areas that appear dry may actually be a result of a turf fungus or grub damage. A good practice is to examine the soil below the turf surface. If no moisture exists, then increased watering may be required. If there is plenty of moisture in the soil, a disease or insect problem is more likely to be the source of the brown or dry appearance.