



Ten Tips to Maintaining a Healthy Lawn

Establishing and maintaining a healthy and beautiful lawn takes time, effort, equipment and application of a variety of products to achieve successful results. You can hire a lawn care company and leave the work to someone else or do it yourself by reading ARBOR GREEN LANDSCAPE SERVICES, "*TEN TIPS TO MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LAWN*".

If you need a little extra help along the way, we offer affordable on-site lawn, athletic field, tree and shrub maintenance advice for homeowners, commercial property managers, municipalities and school divisions.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

- Spring clean-up is normally performed by late April or early May
- For small lawns, use a hand rake or rent a mechanical power rake machine for larger areas
- Raking stimulates new spring growth, gets rid of excessive dead grass, breaks up thatch and picks up decaying tree leaves/debris from the previous year

HOLLOW CORE AERATION

- Lawns should be aerated every spring with hollow core aeration equipment
- Soil plugs are extracted by the aerator to increase oxygen in the soil and reduce compaction
- Improves rooting depth of the grass
- Improves water percolation rate into the soil
- Breaks up the thatch layer if excessive thatch is present

LAWN SEEDING

- Seeding is recommended to improve lawn quality, repair turf wear, or winter damage
- New seed mixtures have improved color and compete more aggressively with weeds
- Specific high quality cultivars of Kentucky Bluegrass and Fescue are recommended when seeding an existing lawn

LAWN (SOIL) DRESSING

- Provides soil modification after lawn aeration
- Improves grass seed germination
- Helps to decompose the thatch layer
- Lawn dressing is rich in nutrients and can provide as much value as a fertilizer application
- Adding soil helps to smooth out low spots on the lawn
- Spread approximately 1 cm layer of lawn dressing and rake smooth

LAWN FERTILIZER PROGRAM

- Most lawn fertilizers contain Nitrogen and Potassium as key elements to support healthy grass
- Phosphorous element is no longer commonly included in fertilizer formulations
- Phosphorous is permitted up to 1% on bag label
- Higher Phosphorous amounts are permitted during seed and sod establishment period
- For best results, it is recommended to seek the advice of a qualified lawn care professional to determine the correct fertilizer formulation, application rates and seasonal requirements

LAWN IRRIGATION

- In hot and dry conditions lawns may require irrigation
- Water only when the lawn becomes dry, avoid frequent light watering
- A good practice is water long enough to thoroughly moisten soil to a 7-10 cm. depth.
- Check soil moisture depth after watering with a garden hand trowel
- Irrigate in the late evening or early morning to allow water to soak into the soil

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

- Be on the lookout for irregular to circular tan to brown dead looking patches on the lawn
- If adequate soil moisture is present, turf disease or insect pests may have invaded the lawn
- Seek the advice of a qualified lawn care professional to determine correct treatment options

WEED CONTROL

- A healthy well maintained lawn will have fewer weeds to control
- If weeds become problematic, corrective measures should be considered
- Mechanical hand digging of weeds can be performed if only a few weeds are present
- Chemical weed control options are available if hand digging is not a viable option

LAWN MOWING

- Always keep mower blades sharp
- Do not remove more than 1/3 grass leaf blade per mowing cycle
- More frequent mowing produces a nicer looking lawn and reduces injury to the grass
- Ideal mowing height for lawns is between 5 cm and 8 cm
- In hot and dry periods it helps to increase the mowing height to reduce watering demands
- Change the direction you mow (mowing pattern) to reduce tracking and soil compaction

FALL LAWN MAINTENANCE

- Fall fertilizer application is recommended in early September
- Reduce irrigation to encourage deeper grass root development
- Fall seeding can be performed prior to September 5th if required
- Lawn dressing can be applied after seed application to enhance seed germination
- Remove excessive tree leaves if present on the lawn before winter