



Thank you for choosing Perf-a-Lawn's Traditional Lawn Care Program. Throughout the year, your technician will make recommendations regarding lawn conditions and possible improvements. However, below you will find guidelines that are vital to the performance of your turf management program.

MOWING

- Maintain height at 3-3.5 inches
 - Keeps soil temperature cooler
 - Promotes deeper root development
 - Reduces water loss
 - Helps prevent crabgrass and weed germination because the turf is denser for the aforementioned reasons
- 1/3 rule
 - Never remove more than 1/3 of the blade each time
- Seasonal schedule
 - *Spring*—more frequent due to rapidly growing grass
 - *Summer*—less frequent due to slower growing grass. NEVER mow when temperatures are above 90 degrees
 - *Fall*—last mow of the year should be 20-30% lower than normal to discourage fungal diseases in the Winter

IRRIGATION

- Too Often
 - Watering too much favors the development of fungal diseases
- Too Little
 - Leads to dormancy, weakened/drooping plants or death
- Proper Amounts
 - When rain is sufficient, apply 1 inch of water weekly or enough to wet the top 6-8 inches of soil; you can check the saturation level by digging with a small trowel
- Timing
 - Best done early in the morning to decrease water loss from evaporation as temperatures rise during the day.
 - Avoid late evening watering, it extends the time grass is saturated which may increase disease problems

MOWING

- Direction
 - Mow at right angles to keep height even and promote upright growth
 - Alternating directions helps to prevent soil compaction from heavy machinery
- Mulching
 - ALWAYS mulch the grass clippings
 - Returning the clippings to the soil will return vital nutrients back to the lawn
- Sharp Blades
 - Dull mower blades rip the grass, instead of slicing it and making a clean cut
 - Ripped blades of grass are more likely to develop a fungus and have an overall brown-tipped look

AERATION & OVERSEEDING

- Aeration
 - Mechanical removal of soil plugs from the lawn to relieve soil compaction and manage thatch. This improves water and air movement in the soil; it encourages root development.
 - Ideal timing of this is during the Fall.
- Overseeding
 - Overseeding thin areas is recommended at the time of aeration
 - Watering should be done frequently and lightly to keep seed moist until germination
 - Please refrain from mowing for a minimum of two weeks. After germination continue to water; don't forget to keep mower blades 3.5 inches or higher

pH Levels

- Lime
 - Optimal pH level for grasses in our area is 6.5 to 7—this is slightly acidic
 - Soil acidity is the single most important factor affecting the biological health of the soil

