

TURFGRASS CARE

Northern Utah Cool Season Grasses



WEBER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

1181 North Fairgrounds Drive

Ogden, Utah 84404

(801) 399-8200

Turfgrass adds beauty to most landscapes, helps cool the environment, and gives people a place to play, sit and walk barefoot. Maintaining a lawn properly helps keep it beautiful for years to come, and reduces the likelihood of problems. A few simple practices can make lawn care easier and more satisfying.

KEY TO CALENDAR EVENTS

Pre-emergent Herbicide

Control annual weeds (crabgrass, spurge, foxtail, oxalis). Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to problem areas (normally along sidewalks and driveways) or entire yard if infestation is severe. Examples of turf pre-emergent herbicides include Halt, Barricade, Galleria, etc. Pre-emergents are often combined with a fertilizer.

CHECK SPRINKLERS

Check all sprinkler heads to make sure they are giving accurate coverage and functioning properly. Most sprinkler heads should overlap each other. (Head to head coverage)

Watering

Water long enough for water to penetrate six to eight inches deep. Water deeply and infrequently, applying the amount specified in the calendar. Allow the turf and soil to dry between watering.

Fertilizer

Greens up the lawn. Apply a lawn fertilizer that is high in nitrogen (21-0-0, 21-3-6, 20-2-4, 34-0-0, etc.) at a rate of ½ pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. This equals about 5 pounds of 21-0-0 or an equivalent fertilizer, or 3 pounds of 34-0-0 or an equivalent fertilizer/ 1,000 square feet.



Mowing Height

Setting the lawn mower to cut turfgrass taller promotes a stronger root system, and encourages thicker growth which can help eliminate some weed problems.

Aeration

Aerate the lawn using a core aerator. Remove a minimum of a 4-inch plug, and leave them on the lawn to disintegrate, if possible. Aeration improves the penetration of water, herbicide and fertilizer, and helps reduce compaction and thatch.

Broadleaf Herbicide

Control perennial broadleaf weeds (dandelions, morning glory, knotweed, chickweed, oxalis, black medic, etc). Examples of broadleaf weed killers include Weed-B-Gon, Trimec, Lawn Weed Killer, Dandelion Killer, 2,4-D, Confront, Turflon Ester, etc.

CALENDAR

Minimum Care

APRIL 1

- t Apply a *pre-emergent* to control annual weeds.
- t Apply 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches of *water* per week.
- t Set the *mower* to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.
- t Check the *sprinklers* for accurate coverage and proper function.

Optimum Care

APRIL 1

- t Apply a *pre-emergent* to control annual weeds.
- t *Aerate* the lawn with a core aerator.
- t Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of *water/week*. Measure the sprinkler system output to make sure.
- t Check the *sprinkler* heads for accurate coverage and proper function.
- t Set the *mower* to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches high.

Minimum Care

MAY 1

- t Apply a *broadleaf herbicide* to control perennial weeds.

JUNE 1

- t Re-apply a *pre-emergent* to control annual weeds.

JULY 1

- t Apply 2 to 2 1/2 inches of *water/week*.
- t Set the *mower* higher to cut the lawn 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall.

SEPTEMBER 1

- t Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of *water/week*.
- t *Aerate* using a core aerator and leave on the lawn.
- t Continue to *mow* the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.
- t Apply a high *nitrogen fertilizer* (slow release products are best). This is the most important fertilizer application of the year.



OCTOBER 15

- t Lower the height of the *mower* and cut the lawn 1 1/2 to 2 inches tall.
- t Drain the irrigation lines.

NOVEMBER 1

- t Apply 1 pound of *nitrogen*/1,000 square feet using ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or urea (46-0-0) before rain or snow, if possible.

Optimum Care

MAY 1

- t Apply a *broadleaf herbicide* to control perennial weeds.
- t Apply a high *nitrogen fertilizer*. A slow release product is best.

JUNE 1

- t Re-apply a *pre-emergent* to control annual weeds.

JULY 1

- t Apply 2 to 2 1/2 inches *water/week*.
- t Set the *mower* higher to cut the lawn 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall.

SEPTEMBER 1

- t Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of *water/week*.
- t Set the *mower* to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.
- t *Aerate* the lawn with a core aerator, then over-seed to introduce new grass seed and help thicken the lawn, as needed.
- t Apply a slow-release, high *nitrogen fertilizer*. This is the most important fertilizer application of the year.
- t Apply a *broadleaf herbicide* to control perennial weeds.

OCTOBER 15

- t Lower the height of the *mower* to cut the lawn 1 1/2 to 2 inches tall.
- t Winterize the sprinkler system by draining the lines and blowing out the system, one station at a time.

NOVEMBER 1

- t Apply 1 pound of *nitrogen*/1,000 square feet using ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or urea (46-0-0) before rain or snow, if possible.