



Develop a Few Good Lawn Care Habits



1. Keep your mower blades *sharp!* After every 8 or 10 hours of mowing, they will need to be re-sharpened. Sharpen or have blades sharpened at a 35 to 45 degree angle.
2. Use a mulching mower; clippings are a great natural source of nitrogen. Only bag clippings if you notice a fungal disease develop.
3. Mow, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. A healthy cutting height of 2 ½-3 inches will crowd out weeds, keeps moisture in the soil and supports deeper, healthier roots. For summer mow on the highest setting as possible.
4. Avoid mowing your lawn when it is wet.
5. Delay mowing at least 24 to 48 hours after fertilizer applications.
6. Grubs in your lawn are a major problem! Control them with Scotts GrubEx or Milky Spore (March to August), or use Bayer 24 Hour Grub Killer late August to October.
7. Eliminating grubs from your lawn should reduce a mole problem. However, moles also eat earthworms, which are desirable in the garden. So if you have a mole problem, try a mole repellent such as MoleMax in addition to a grub control product.
8. Water in the morning, slowly and deeply 1" once a week or ½" twice a week during dry spells. Shallow watering will create weak root growth, resulting in thatch and disease.
9. Best time to sow grass seed is September in NE Ohio, 2nd best time is April. Over-seed established lawns to thicken. Patch small areas either time to prevent future weeds. Seed after core aeration or dethatching.
10. Start fertilizing when temperatures are consistently in the 40's. Grass actively grows at 42 degrees. Use slow-release, granular lawn foods for continuous feeding and no run-off.
11. Check your soil pH annually; the ideal range for lawns is 6.2 to 7.0. Apply lime to raise the pH if needed, 50 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. or use Espoma Lightning Lime, 1 bag per 5,000 sq. ft.
12. Try a four step fertilizer program to keep your lawn healthy year round; apply at **Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day**, plus Halloween with good fall weather.
13. Use a fungicide or insecticide approximately two weeks before the problem occurred last year, or immediately when seen. Prevention is better than the cure.
14. Treat lawn weeds when they are actively growing with a lawn safe herbicide such as Bonide Weed Beater Ultra or Ortho Weed B Gon plus Crabgrass Control.
15. Read labels and follow instructions on all products for horticultural use.