



Summertime Lawn Care



tips & tricks

By: Sunset Lakes Developments



Creating a greener garden for all

watering tip

Occasional and deep watering encourages grass roots to grow deep & strong (frequent & light bouts of watering encourage short roots and require more watering with time). Ideally, water in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid evaporation.

mowing tip

Regular mowing induces the sod to become thick and dense. Cut at a height of 2.5" to 3"; any shorter may cause an invasion of weeds. In addition, many weeds cannot survive having their tops repeatedly cut off.

fertilizing tip

Leave your lawn clippings on the lawn after you mow — they make an ideal (& free!) fertilizer; as they break down they release nitrogen into the soil. Use compost or all-organic and low nitrogen fertilizer in the fall to feed the roots of your lawn. Adding compost and mulch will aid with your soil's water retention.



LAWN

Dandelions appear as a result of nutrient imbalance in your lawn's soil — either too much potassium, too little calcium or too much acidity

Rodale (2011)

FACTS

Signs of a thirsty lawn are: if grass colour changes to dark blue-green, if imprints are left when walking across lawn, & if grass blades droop inward

OMAFRA, 2008



timeline

LATE SPRING

- Aerate if needed
- Top-dress and overseed if needed
- Pull dandelions & other weeds
- Fertilize (if needed, use all organic or compost)
- Wait 30 days if overseeding
- Frequent mowing

** mow before overseeding*

SUMMER

- Pull dandelions & other weeds
- Watch out grubs & grub damage
- Occasional watering, ideally in early morning (6:00-10:00am before hot, midday temperatures)

LATE SUMMER

- Watch for necrotic ring spot (yellow tipped grass) & other lawn diseases
- If it is an issue, overseed and aerate
- Continue to water at least once a week (unless there has been sufficient rainfall)

** about 2.5 cm of water*



Sustainable Gardening

COMPOST



If you don't do your own composting at home, you can buy municipal compost from the City of Ottawa. For more information, please [click here](#). Compost provides all of the benefits of synthetic fertilizers without the harsh chemicals and it helps divert waste from our landfills.

NATIVE PLANTS



These plants have adapted to the local environment and require less water and less attention than other plants.

ORGANIC PEST CONTROL



Use diatomaceous (soft rock powder) dirt to kill insects, pour boiling water on weeds, use beer to bait slugs, and pull weeds by hand.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT



Direct your eavestroughs to specific infiltration areas to enhance stormwater management. Better yet, incorporate rain gardens into your landscaping, by planting gardens with with permeable soil in shallow depressions or low-lying areas in stormwater drainage paths. This way, stormwater can be directed right to the plants and flowers that need it - just as nature intended.

LAWN TIP

Organic lawn fertilizer will naturally attract more earthworms to your lawn, which help to grow & improve healthy plants and soil.



Happy Gardening!

