

MOW HIGHER AND WATER SMARTER

Don't "Spoil" your Lawn with too Much Care!

You can achieve a healthy lawn without a lot of effort - - it starts by being water smart. When watering your lawn, learn to use less water. You will save time, money, and water.



Mow Higher and Develop Deep Roots

Mowing higher helps develop deep roots. If you mow the grass too short, root shock cause grass to turn yellow despite your watering! Set mower blades about 2-3 inches high. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in one mowing.

Grass needs leaf surface to take in sunlight. This will allow it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system. A lawn with deep roots requires less water and is more resistant to drought and disease. Taller blades of grass actually hold up better in

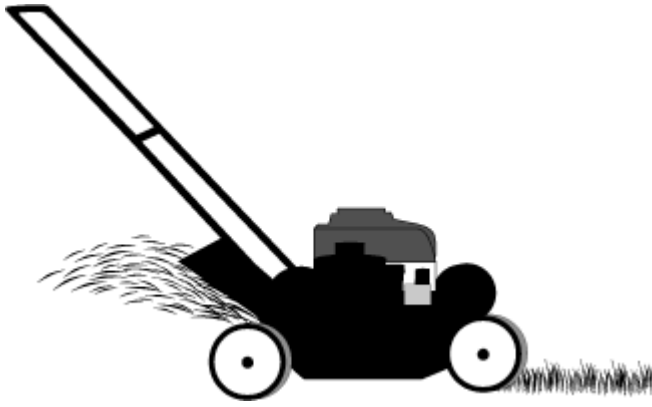
the heat, because that little bit of extra cover shades the root zone keeping more moisture in the soil. Longer, thicker grass also makes it difficult for weeds to germinate and grow.

Keep It Sharp

For best results, keep the blade sharp and mow when the grass is dry. Sharp blades reduce water loss from your lawn. A sharp blade does not leave a ragged edge on the blade of the leaf like a dull blade does. Those ragged edges can soak up a lot of water, and when you consider the total surface area of cut grass blades it adds up.

Grass cycle

Want a simple, natural approach to lawn care? Consider grass cycling--leaving the grass clippings on the lawn. Because grass clippings are 75 to 85 percent water, they quickly



decompose and release nutrients back into the lawn. Grass cycling, or mulch-mowing, provides greater shade to the ground and assists in reducing the rate of evaporation of soil moisture and surface watering. You save time by reducing bagging, raking and watering. Landfill space is also saved by reducing the amount of grass clippings being thrown away.

Let It breathe

Once a year, aerate your lawn by removing small plugs of earth. This allows air and water to reach the grass roots. You can have this done professionally, or rent tools to do the job yourself. Remove the weeds, which compete for water with the lawn.



Be Water Smarter



Water your lawn only when it needs it. A good way to test this is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move it doesn't need watering and if it stays flat it needs watering. Water early or late in the day. As much as 30% of water can be lost to evaporation by watering when it is hot.

By breaking up your watering time, you allow the water to soak into the ground before adding any additional water, eliminating runoff. If you have an irrigation controller and water is running off and not soaking in, set your controller to water in two shorter periods for the same total length of time.

For more tips on saving water in your landscaping, go to:

<http://www.fresnowater.org>

[http:// www.h2ouse.org/](http://www.h2ouse.org/)

http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/water_efficient_landscapes.pdf