



## MOWING GUIDELINES

**Proper mowing is essential for maintaining healthy turf.** Improper mowing affects the health of the grass plants, which in turn affects its appearance and makes it prone to other problems. We recommend a finish cut height of **3 - 3½** inches from April through October. To measure the cut height, simply put a ruler down through the turf to the surface. On most mowers, this cut height will be achieved at the highest or next to highest setting (don't necessarily rely on numbered settings). Mowing height can be gradually lowered as the growing season winds down during November.



For best results, the lawn should be mowed frequently enough so that no more than

1/3 of the total growth is removed at one time. Removing too much growth shocks grass plants, aggravating stresses and diseases, as well as increasing the chance for weed growth. This may not be practical if lawn only gets cut once per week, which makes the above mowing height that much more critical.

In addition to height and frequency of mowing, sharp mower blades are also important. Torn/shredded grass tips indicate that blade is dull (or that too much top growth is being removed at once). This will cause increased water loss and disease pressure. If you mow your own lawn, you should sharpen blades monthly. Have 2-3 sharp blades on hand so you can just swap them and re-sharpen as needed.

## WATERING GUIDELINES



Figure 1

**Your turf needs a certain amount of water for it to maintain active growth.** Dry winds, low relative humidity, lack of regular rainfall, high temperatures or any combination of these factors can cause drought stress of turf, which can quickly lead to grass areas turning brown (dormant). The grass is not dead, but rather has shut itself down as a protection against the unfavorable growing conditions. This is the same process the grass plants go through later in the season in preparation for winter

Supplemental watering should begin when lawn shows early indications of moisture stress, rather than waiting until lawn is brown from dormancy (which requires more time and water to recover). Areas of turf that have visible footprints and/or mower tire tracks for more than 1/2 hour is a good indicator (Figure 1), as well as areas that show a grayish-purple tint (Figure 2).



Figure 2

For best results, we recommend deep, infrequent watering during early morning hours (4 AM to 10 AM) every 3 days or so between rainfalls. The amount of time you need to run watering devices will vary depending on type of equipment. You're trying to wet the soil to a depth of 3-4 inches once the water applied has soaked in. By watering in this fashion, the root system will be stronger and surface areas will be drier, reducing diseases pressure. On the other hand any turf that has gone dormant will need frequent, deep watering for it to recover.

If you have questions specific to your lawn, feel free to give us a call or send an e-mail.