

## SUMMER LAWN CARE GUIDE



### ***Summer Watering***

- Keep the grass mowed high to establish deep roots
- Water deeply and infrequently
- Water long enough to reach a depth of 4-6 inches
- Water in the early morning when temperatures are cooler
- Watch for signs of overwatering (mushrooms, soggy soil) or underwatering (wilting, dry spots)

### ***Managing Heat and Drought Stress***

- Understand that dormancy is natural and temporary, and brown doesn't always mean dead
- Minimize foot traffic on dormant or stressed lawns to prevent further damage
- Avoid attempting to revive dormant grass with excessive water or fertilizer
- Focus on maintaining minimal, consistent moisture to protect the crown of the grass

### ***Fertilizing in Summer***

- Fertilize grasses during their peak growing season
- Slow-release fertilizers, lighter feedings and lower nitrogen levels help to prevent burning
- Do not fertilize a dormant lawn
- Overusing fertilizer pulls moisture from the grass, causing yellow or brown streaks

### ***Weed Management***

- Improper weed management can amplify summer stress
- Carefully spot treat weeds in the summer or manage them in spring
- Herbicides can stress or burn lawns in hot weather
- Healthy, thick lawns naturally crowd out weeds

### ***Summer Mowing Best Practices***

- Maintain higher mowing heights during the warmer months
- Taller grass helps to shade the soil, reducing evaporation
- Keeping lawns longer helps to protect the roots, allowing them to establish deeper
- Make sure to keep mower blades sharp to prevent tearing the grass
- Never cut more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the grass blade at a time

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