



WORKSAVING TIPS FOR LAWNS

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn as you mow. They break down quickly, add nitrogen to the ground, and, contrary to widespread belief, don't contribute to thatch buildup. Turf experts say that a season's worth of grass clippings left on the lawn is equivalent to one or two applications of fertilizer. Leaving clippings on the lawn area also saves space in landfills.
- Reshape shrub beds or corner areas to eliminate sharp angles and corners. It's easier to mow around a wide curve than a sharp angle.
- Create islands to incorporate isolated trees, shrubs, or items such as birdbaths; cover island beds with mulch and/or perennial groundcovers. This eliminates the need to mow around single items in the lawn.
- If you don't have an automatic sprinkler system, buy a timer attachment for outdoor faucets that can be set to come on at regular intervals. You'll still have to move the sprinkler around if the area to be watered is larger than the sprinkler can reach.
- In the spring and the fall, water less frequently and apply more water each time to encourage a deeper root system. A constantly moist top layer results in thatch, moss and other problems. Less frequent, deep watering also discourages many weeds and diseases.
- During hot weather, infrequent deep watering has been shown to have no effect on root depth. Irrigate to a target of 1-1.5 inches of water per week during the heat.
- During hot weather, mow the lawn at taller heights (2 - 2.5 inches) to create a cooler root system. This improves heat and drought tolerance. Taller grass also prevents weed seeds from germinating because light is prevented from reaching the ground.
- Mow lawns often enough that not more than one third of the leaf blade is cut off at each mowing. This reduces stress on the grass plant.

Additional Resources:

[C067 Lawncare Basics](#)

[C059 Grasscycling](#)

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