

Mowing

Mowing affects growth and development of your lawn. In southwestern B.C. mow to a height of 1 ½ inches (4cm.) to 2 inches (5cm). Although most improved varieties can be mowed down to a height of 1", remember the shorter you cut your lawn, the more often you will have to mow it.

Due to the aggressive growth habit of a newly installed lawn, special attention must be made to regular mowings (rule of thumb is never remove more than 1/3 of the total grass height at time of mowing).

1. A 2" mowing height should not be allowed to grow taller than 3" at time of mowing.
2. This rule of mowing also applies to newly installed lawns and will usually require a mow within the first week and sometimes subsequent mowings every 4 to 5 days during the first month after installation. **This is very important in shady areas!**

Good Mowing Practices

1. Never mow more than 1/3 of the total grass height. Cutting too much off the plant will send it into shock!
2. Do not lower the mower during the year if at all possible. Grass does not respond well to abrupt changes in mowing height.
3. Keep mower blades sharp. With rotary mowers only the outward 1/4 inch of blade does the cutting. *A sign of a dull mower blade is fractured or shredded looking grass blade tips.*
4. Change direction of mowing from one time to the next to ensure an even cut.
5. Whenever possible use a bag catcher to collect clippings.

Weed and Insect Control:

Most weed and insect problems can be prevented by properly mowing, and fertilizing your lawn. If you need a herbicide or a pesticide, we recommend Killax for weeds and Diazanone for insects. These products are available at most garden centres. Always use proper care in handling.

Fertilizing:

Over fertilizing is worse than none at all. Here are some tips on good fertilizing.

1. Measure your lawn exactly to determine the amount of fertilizer required.
2. The most important thing about fertilizing your lawn is to make sure that you apply the fertilizer evenly. One way to achieve this is to divide the fertilizer needed in two parts and apply in two different directions.
3. Do not fertilize wet grass. The fertilizer will burn the grass when it dissolves on the leaf blades.
4. Do not use more fertilizer than necessary to maintain attractive growth. Over fertilization, especially with nitrogen, results in excessive succulent growth that requires frequent mowing, and leaves the lawn with no resistance to stresses of heat, drought, and disease. *Too much fertilizer can seriously damage your lawn.*
5. Avoid fertilizing during the hot summer months. Slow growing grass is more resistant to stresses of heat and drought. *Use only enough fertilizer to maintain color. Do not force growth.*