



WATERING TIPS

All living things must have water to survive, and your lawn needs plenty to drink.

- **Quantity.** Your lawn should receive roughly **1 inches of water/week**.
- Our recommendation is to run your sprinklers **1 to 1½ hours, per zone, twice a week**. Increase the time, not the frequency, if it appears more water is needed. The biggest mistake we see is irrigation systems being run for 20 min. per zone every day or every other. This merely dampens the grass, puts down very little water and is of little benefit to your lawn. The best way to water is twice a week for 1/2 of the time it takes to put down 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water, to bring water to the root system where it is most beneficial.



For customers without under ground irrigation, use a hose-end sprinkler to apply 1” of water/week.

We recommend 4 hrs per area, once a week. Increase the time, not the frequency, if it appears more water is needed.

**You should water like a heavy rainstorm, a lot of water at one time.
Give your lawn a good long drink!**

- **Best time.** Rutgers University recommends irrigation between **Midnight and 6:00 am**. Midday watering, when the weather is hot and dry, can waste water due to excessive evaporation. For those with watering systems, start it after 3 am. Evening watering tends to promote disease problems.



MOWING TIPS

Mowing correctly is very important for keeping your lawn healthy and good-looking. Regardless of what kind of mower you use, there are four things you can do to keep mowing problems cut down to size:

- **Mow high.** The basic rule is: mow down to the final height of **3 to 3-1/2 inches**. Higher mowing promotes deeper roots, prevents water loss by shading the soil, helps heat stress, and reduces weeds by preventing sunlight from warming weed seeds.
- **Mow often.** Determining when to mow should be based on the growth rate of the grass, not on the calendar. Remove only about one-third of the leaf blade each time you mow. Mowing too close removes the green part of the plant, leaving stalky-looking crowns and stems. This gives the lawn a brown, scalped look and weakens the grass. Recovery from a single “scalping” can set the lawn’s growth back many weeks. If you mow frequently enough, clumps should never be a problem.
- **Keep mower blades sharp.** A dull blade rips and shreds the grass instead of cutting it, turning it a bleached tan color, and leaving the whole lawn looking brown. A good guideline for blade sharpening is to sharpen your mower blade every other month. Try it! You’ll really notice the difference.
- **Do not bag.** Fairway Green recommends that **clippings never be bagged**. Clippings contain essential nutrients, which are recycled back into the lawn when they decompose. Clippings do not cause thatch as some people think; they decompose very rapidly. The only time clippings should be removed from a lawn are when a disease problem dictates they be removed, and only for a few mowings. Your lawn specialist will let you know when bagging may be necessary.