Things only YOU can do!

PROPER WATERING

LAWN ✸ DOCTOR

Proper, consistent watering is essential in keeping a green lawn during the hot summer months.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY LAWN NEEDS WATER?

A "thirsty" lawn turns from the normal green color to a purple-bluish color. In these areas, the grass blades will not spring back if you walk across the lawn and your footprints will be visible. This is the first sign of "wilt" and indicates a need for water.

If the lawn does not receive water soon, it begins to go dormant and turn brown. Once this happens, it takes a lot of water to bring the color back to the plant. This requires the grass plant to use large amounts of stored energy, greatly weakening it and making it susceptible to disease.

WATER DEEPLY, NOT DAILY

Deep and infrequent watering maintains a healthy root system and reduces weed infestation (as opposed to light and frequent irrigation, which promotes shallow roots and germination of weed seeds). Watering daily for 15 - 20 minutes will cause the grass roots to stay in the top inch or two of soil, a hot day will quickly dry the soil and much of the grass will brown. Weeds and weed seedlings love a daily watering. It's just what they need to get a good start.

Lawns need about an inch to an inch and a half of water per week to maintain color. Watering an hour per area every other day with a pulsating sprinkler should give the best results during the hot summer months. This should water down to a soil depth of about 6"- 8". You can test your sprinkler's output and consistency by placing flat-bottom cups or cans within the sprinkler pattern and measure the water over a given time. Make adjustments as necessary so the entire lawn is watered evenly.

THE BEST TIME TO WATER

The best time to water is in the early morning, usually between the hours of 4am - 9am. This is the best time to avoid losing water to evaporation. You can water in the early afternoon, just be aware that it will take more water to get the same results. Avoid watering in the evening and at night, as this can lead to an increase in some lawn diseases.

1.800.LAWNDOCTOR