



Watering Tips from Lawn Doctor May 2024

When to Water the Lawn

If you find your lawn has taken on a grayish cast or appears to be dull green, it's telling you that it needs water. You can also check your lawn by walking on it: If your footprints don't disappear quickly, it's because the grass blades don't have the needed moisture to spring back. While it may seem like you can head out to water your lawn anytime during the day, your lawn actually needs more specific care. Watering in the morning (before 10 a.m.) is the best time for your lawn; it's cooler and winds tend to be calmer so water can soak into the soil and be absorbed by the grass roots before it can evaporate. If you must water in the evening, try between 4 and 6 p.m. which should give the grass blades time to dry before nightfall. The later you water, the greater chance of disease becoming prevalent in your lawn. It's worth noting, though, that you don't necessarily have to water your lawn. Lawns are resilient. Established and properly cared-for lawns can survive weeks without water by going dormant (when the lawn turns brown), then recover once the rain returns.

How Much Water to Use

When watering an established lawn, it's typically recommended to water until the top 6 to 8 inches of soil (where most turf grass roots grow) is wet. Most lawns need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week—either from rain or watering—to soak the soil that deeply. That amount of water can either be applied during a single watering or

divided into two watering's during the week. Just be sure not to overwater your lawn.

When Watering a Warm-Season Grass Type, Keep These Tips in Mind:

- Zoysia, St. Augustine, Bermuda, and Centipede grasses develop deep root systems, making them better able to withstand drought.
- In general, warm-season grass types require less water than cool-season grasses. Where you live determines how frequently you need to water because of differences in rainfall and summer weather conditions. Grass requires the most water in conditions of heat, drought, low humidity, and high winds. The type of soil you have also plays a part: Clay soil holds water longer and can be watered less frequently than sandy soil, which drains very quickly (and therefore needs to be watered more often).

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