

# Mowing

*\*Do the mowing right and watering won't be as important!*



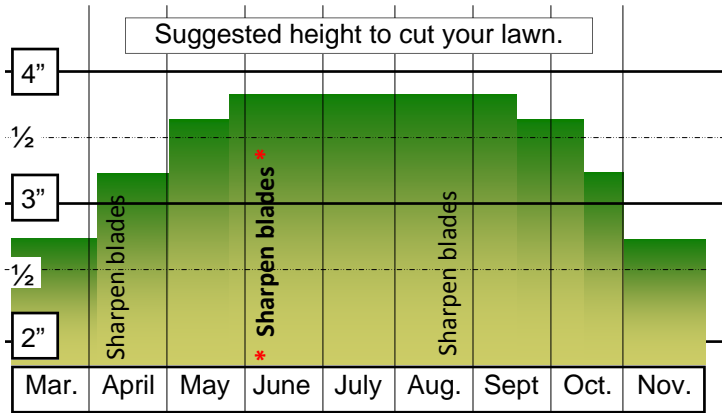
Many people underestimate the importance of mowing. A lawn that is mowed with sharp blades, at the right height, and at the right times, will actually resist weeds and fungus, and keep its color longer. Proper mowing will help keep the lawn looking better in hot conditions. The key is sharpening and adjusting your blades as the season progresses, so you can achieve your goal of a healthy green lawn. The quote "God is in the details" couldn't be more correct.

Updated 2017

## Directions

With a sharp blade, **cut your lawn 3 1/2 inches most of the time.** In hotter, drier times (June, July, August), 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 inches or higher may be needed to prolong health and color. In the early spring and late fall cut 2 1/2 - 3". **Don't cut more than 1/3 off at a time.** That means you may have to cut more than 2 times a week during wetter times or not for weeks when dryer. On average you should be sharpening 2-3 times a season not just once. The first and last cut of the season should be cut lower. With heavy shade lawns you may want to cut a bit shorter with certain types of shade grasses, but only if needed.

**Why ?** Leaving your grass longer in hot, stressful weather enables it to store water and nutrients. Cutting your lawn longer actually slows the growth. It also shades the crown. Cutting off more than 1/3 of the blade will shock the crown. With no top growth and photosynthesis to balance the roots, fungus and die back will follow. Grass with ragged edges looks dingy, takes up more surface area, loses water quicker, and heals slower than a nice sharp cut. A doctor uses a sharp scalpel so you heal quickly and don't get disease, it's the same for your lawn.



**\*Most importantly, use a ruler to check your mow height and don't be afraid to use the highest or one of the highest settings. Mower manufacturers put them on the deck for our zone and grasses, Blue, Rye and Fescue.** Please review the information I have put together over the years and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

**\*\*Always use a ruler! Don't trust the marks on your lawnmower deck!**

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# Watering



Watering consistently is the best. Even just watering when needed is O.K. if you pay attention to the weather. Make sure the saying "too little too late" doesn't apply to you.

## Directions

Water heavily two to three days a week. Water your lawn in the AM HOURS (12A.M. TO 12P.M.), 60 minutes or more per zone. 1 to 1-1/2 inches a week is needed during periods of no rain. Do not wait until the lawn looks like it needs water. Do not water in the afternoon/evening (specifically 3-7 p.m.). This will help promote fungus by extending the time the lawn stays damp. If you don't have time in the morning hours, then you can pick up a timer that attaches to your garden hose. **If you can't water in the A.M. watering after dark is acceptable.** Just don't prolong the time the lawn would naturally sit dewy and damp by starting too early.



A.M. - Good To Water



EARLY P.M - Do Not

**Why ?** Watering lightly in shorter intervals weakens the grass because the roots do not search out water, enabling the grass to better deal with extreme periods of weather. Watering after your lawn looks like it needs it will take much more water and effort to get it back to normal because it has already been damaged. Your lawn, just like all organisms, is doing a balancing act. It has to resist diseases and insects that are attacking constantly. By watering in the afternoon/evening, you extend the time your lawn sits damp. This gives disease pathogens (fungus) already in your lawn an ideal environment, and when hot you will lose a measurable amount to evaporation.

# THE CUSTOMER AND AARON'S GREENSCAPE, INC.

YOU TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR LAWN



WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR WORK

We have to play as a team to get results. A lawn and landscape is always a work in progress. Many factors play a big role in achieving our goals (yours and ours). Together we can make it beautiful.

**Your proper mowing / watering and our recommendations / treatments will always make a winning team for your lawn and landscape.**

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## Most Common Questions

### Why did you do my neighbors lawn but not mine?

We offer several programs and services so we are not always doing the same service on the same day on the same street. Also billing may have conflicted with routing. If you have any question about your treatment, please call.

### How do preventive applications help?

A preventive goes down before any damage can get a foothold for the year. Otherwise we would have to see damage before we can treat the problem. This allows the disease / insects to hurt the appearance of your lawn. Preventive applications go down before reoccurring damage appears.

### How can aeration help my lawn?

A garden must be tilled every so often, and so should your lawn. Aeration allows more air exchange within the soil for better root structure, and allows for better fertilization and water absorption. The cores left behind break down the thatch that contributes to lawn disease.

### What are the spots and circles in my lawn?

These sometimes can be due to disease and / or insects. Lawn disease thrives due to incorrect watering and mowing practices. Although some lawns are more susceptible genetically and because of bad soil, mowing at least three inches or higher with a sharpened blade, watering correctly, aerating every year, and using preventive fungicide / insecticide and/ or organic fertilizer will give your lawn the best chance for success.

### Why aren't the weeds dying after the weed control was applied?

Our systemic weed control translocates within the weed after water has been absorbed. It takes about two to three weeks to see results, since both the weed and roots are being destroyed. This is Mother Nature we are dealing with here, and some weeds are harder to kill. Clover, Creeping Charlie, and Violets, for example, may need a second or third treatment.

### Why are there weeds in my lawn after Round 1?

Round 1 does not usually treat existing broadleaf weeds because ground and air temperatures are typically too low to get good control. Round 1 is designed to keep Crabgrass and other grassy weeds from germinating. Post-emergent broadleaf weed control is usually applied in Rounds 2-5 when weeds are present and actively growing.

### Why are your written directions usually the same?

To get an exact gauge of mowing we would have to do it. Things like blade sharpness and height are an educated guess based off when the last cut was done and how tall the grass was when last cut. Rather than being too precise we generally group into two categories:

*Keep Sharp / Keep High = Looks o.k. keep it up.*

*Looks Dull / Raise Up = Sharpen and raise the deck.*

Other areas are the same because lawns and plants need consistent favorable conditions, and we are merely trying to remind you of this. Our best lawns have care givers who consistently follow these seemingly repetitive directions.

### Any Other Questions?

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Call us and we can answer any other questions you may have. We can't see everything, so you are our eyes when we're not there. If you have weeds, spots, or any problems, call us. We want you to be happy.

**AARON'S GREENSCAPE, INC.**  
THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

( 8 1 5 ) **3 3 - L A W N S**

( 8 1 5 ) 3 3 5 - 2 9 6 7

( 8 1 5 ) **2 8 - A A R O N**

( 8 1 5 ) 2 8 2 - 2 7 6 6

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