

Lawn Maintenance Tips



Watering (from Spokane Lawn Doctor and Cutting Edge Lawn Care)
Sandy soil is best watered more frequently and for shorter durations because the ground doesn't hold moisture very long (AHP has sandy soil). Water for a short duration of 5-10 minutes per zone in the evening just before dark to cool the soil and then the main watering should be during the middle of the night. The best time to water the lawn is to start and finish between 2 AM & 6 AM to minimize evaporation and drying from wind, this allows the roots to stay moist longer.

Typically, the lawn should be watered for 20-25 minutes per station if sprinklers are fan-type heads with constant water. If sprinklers are rotating/gear heads, then start with 40-45 mins per station. There is a huge difference in sprinkler heads, their coverage area, and the amount of water they put out. If your sprinklers do not have constant water coverage because they rotate 180 to 360 degrees, you will need to change the insert in the head or increase the watering times for those stations.

1 time per week	April & May	OR Day time high temps are 60-75 deg
2 times per week	June	OR Day time high temps are 75-80 deg
3 times per week	July	OR Day time high temps are 80-85 deg
4 times per week	August	OR Day time high temps are 85-95 deg
2-3 times per week	September	OR Day time high temps are 75-85 deg
1 time per week	October	OR Day time high temps are 60-70 deg

If it is windy and hot, the grass will go in to drought stress quickly, sometimes within a day or two. If the lawn suddenly looks bad, or changes colors quickly, most of the time it is because it needs water or insects are causing the damage.

Mowing (from Spokane Lawn Doctor and Cutting Edge Lawn Care)

For best results, raise the mower height to 3 inches. Push the mower onto pavement, measure from the concrete to the bottom of the deck at 3", and adjust the height. This will look ugly at first, but over 2-3 weeks it will improve and be more helpful for your grass. Mow at a higher height - this helps protect the "crown" of the grass plant and prevent weed seeds from germinating. Avoid mowing more than one quarter of the grass blade at any one mowing, as this puts stress on the grass causing it to brown out, and sometimes die off. It is best to mow once the grass reaches 4" and cutting it at 3" thus cutting off only a quarter of the grass. Grass growth slows down in the summer, but it is still important to mow weekly even if only a small amount of growth gets cut off.