

Best Watering Practices for Lawns in Spokane, WA

Watering Frequency and Amount

- Water deeply and infrequently rather than shallowly and often. Deep watering encourages deep root growth, making your lawn more drought-tolerant^{[1][2][3]}.
- Most Spokane lawns need about 1 inch of water per week during the growing season, including rainfall. Adjust for weather and soil type: sandy soils may need more frequent (note, Arrowhead Point has sandy, rocky soil so watering more often is recommended), lighter watering, while clay soils retain moisture longer and require less frequent watering^{[1][2][3]}.
- During spring, aim for 0.5 to 0.75 inches per week, increasing to about 1 inch as summer heat intensifies^[4].
- For newly seeded or sodded lawns, keep the top ½–2 inches of soil moist with light, frequent watering until established^[5].

Timing

- Water early in the morning, ideally between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m., when temperatures are cooler and winds are calmer. This reduces evaporation and helps prevent lawn diseases^{[6][5][7][8]}.
- Avoid watering in the middle of the day (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) due to high evaporation rates and city restrictions^{[6][8][9]}.
- Watering in the evening is not recommended as it can promote fungal diseases^{[5][7]}.

How to Measure and Adjust Watering

- Use empty cans (like tuna or cat food cans) placed around your lawn to measure how much water your sprinklers apply in a given time. Adjust sprinkler run times so you reach the desired depth (usually 1 inch per week)^{[5][2][3]}.
- Check soil moisture by probing with a screwdriver or trowel. The soil should be moist to a depth of 6–8 inches after watering^{[5][7]}.
- Let the top few inches of soil dry out between waterings to allow roots and soil life to breathe, and to prevent disease^[3].

General Guidelines & City Rules

- Do not water more than four days per week, per Spokane city recommendations^[9].
- Most lawns do well with watering twice a week; increase frequency only during prolonged hot, dry spells^{[1][10][7][9]}.
- Adjust your watering schedule based on rainfall and temperature—water less during cool, wet periods and more during hot, dry weather^{[1][2]}.

Additional Tips

- Consistency is important: avoid letting your lawn go dormant and then resuming watering, as this stresses the grass^[7].
- Aerate compacted soil to help water penetrate more deeply^[7].
- Use a timer to ensure you do not overwater or forget to turn off sprinklers^[7].
- Consider drought-tolerant or native grass species for reduced water needs^[6].

Summary Table: Spokane Lawn Watering Practices

Practice	Recommendation
Frequency	1–2 times/week (up to 4 in summer)
Amount	1 inch/week (including rainfall)
Best Time	Early morning (4–10 a.m.)
Method	Deep, infrequent watering
Soil Check	Moist 6–8 inches deep after watering
Tools	Rain gauge, cans, timer
City Restrictions	No watering 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; max 4 days/week ^[2]

By following these practices, you’ll maintain a healthy, resilient lawn while conserving water and complying with Spokane’s local guidelines.

What are the best lawn mowing practices for lawns in Spokane ,WA

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What mowing height is best for Spokane's cool-season grasses during summer

The best mowing height for Spokane's cool-season grasses during summer is generally between 3 and 3.5 inches. This height helps shade the soil, retain moisture, and protect roots from the region's summer heat. For specific grass types commonly found in Spokane:

- **Kentucky Bluegrass:** 2.5 to 3 inches^{[11][12]}.
- **Perennial Ryegrass:** 2.5 to 3 inches^{[11][12]}.
- **Tall Fescue:** 3 to 3.5 inches, or even up to 4 inches for maximum drought protection^{[11][13][12]}.
- **Fine Fescue:** 1.5 to 3 inches, but keeping it on the taller end during summer is beneficial^[12].

Raising your mowing height in summer helps your lawn out-compete weeds, conserve water, and endure hot, dry conditions typical of Spokane summers^{[13][14]}.

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1. <https://spokaneelawn care.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-watering-your-spokane-lawn/>
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3. <https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/2943/Smart-Watering-PDF?bidId=>
4. <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/washington/spokane-wa/spring-lawn-care-tips-spokane-wa/>
5. <https://spokanesfinestlawns.com/best-time-to-water-grass/>
6. <https://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/water/water-wise-spokane/outdoor-conservation/>
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8. <https://www.greenleafwa.com/index.php/2025/05/06/irrigation-services-spokane/>

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10. <https://www.reddit.com/r/Spokane/comments/15wgabu/seeking advice on lawn watering schedule/>
11. <https://pacific-lawn.com/2025/05/22/your-summer-mowing-guide-for-the-greater-spokane-area/>
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13. <https://blog.davey.com/recommended-lawn-mowing-heights-by-season-spring-summer-fall/>
14. <https://www.reddit.com/r/Spokane/comments/mm6beq/new home owner lawn advice seasonal/>