

# Don't Bag It!

## SAVE TIME, ENERGY & MONEY

### MOWING PLAN

The rule of thumb for mowing home lawns is not to remove more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the leaf surface at any one time. With this mowing schedule you no longer need to bag your grass clippings.

TYPE OF GRASS	MOWER SETTING (in inches)	MOW WHEN OR BEFORE THIS HEIGHT (in inches)
Common Bermuda	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
"Tif" Bermuda	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Buffalo	2	3
Centipede	2	3
St. Augustine	2	3
Tall Fescue	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Zoysia	2	3

Grass clippings left on your lawn will not contribute to thatch, but they will return valuable nutrients to the soil. They usually contain about 4% nitrogen, .5% phosphorous and about 2% potassium, as well as all of the necessary minor elements plants need.

### WATERING PLAN

During the driest period of summer, our lawns usually require about 1 inch of water every 5-6 days. Most hose sprinklers apply  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water per hour, so they would need to run approximately four hours in one spot. If the water runs off the lawn before one inch is applied, turn the sprinkler off, let the water soak in for about an hour, and then continue watering.

#### TURF GRASSES VARY IN THEIR NEED FOR WATER:

Tall Fescue	●	●	●	●	●	●
St. Augustine	●	●	●	●	●	
"Tif" Bermuda	●	●	●	●		
Zoysia	●	●	●			
Common Bermuda	●	●				
Buffalo	●					

The best time to water is early morning, so less water is lost by evaporation. The worst time to water is in the evening because the lawn stays wet all night. This encourages diseases to develop.

Lawns watered too frequently tend to develop shallow root systems, which make them more susceptible to grub damage.

### FERTILIZING PLAN

The best way to find out which analysis of fertilizer is ideal for your lawn, how much fertilizer your lawn needs and when that fertilizer should be applied is to soil test. A kit with complete instructions is available through the Dallas or Tarrant County Extension Office.

FERTILIZER RATIO (NKP)	FERTILIZER ANALYSIS	APPLICATION RATE (Per 1000 sq. ft.)
3-1-2	12-4-8	6
	15-5-10	5
	21-7-14	4
OR		
4-1-2	6-4-8	5
	20-5-10	4

If soil testing is not convenient, following this plan will work for most lawns, but a soil test is the best way to go.

The rate of fertilizer application, the frequency of application, the ratio of nutrients in fertilizer and the source of nitrogen all have a great deal to do with how fast the lawn grows.

This fertilizer plan is designed to allow the lawn to grow at a moderate rate and still have good color.

For slow, even growth, use a fertilizer containing either sulfur-coated urea or ureaformaldehyde as a nitrogen source rather than soluble forms. The soluble forms, such as urea or ammonium sulfate, tend to produce very fast growth for short periods of time.

### WHEN SHOULD YOU FERTILIZE?

<b>Common Bermuda</b> Apr. 15, June 1, July 15 and Sept. 15	<b>Centipede</b> May 15 and Sept. 1	<b>"Tif" Bermuda</b> Apr. 1, May 1, June 1, July 1, Aug. 1 and Sept. 15	<b>Tall Fescue</b> Mar. 1, Sept. 1 and Nov. 15	<b>Buffalo</b> May 1 and Sept. 1	<b>St. Augustine</b> Apr. 15, June 1 and Sept. 1	<b>Zoysia</b> May 1, June 1 and Sept. 15
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