



### Lawn Care Tips:

**One of the least expensive ways** and yet largest equity builder in you home value is to landscape it. A well-landscaped yard will always sell ... and for significantly more. But mostly you get to enjoy your landscaped yard. Here are four simple tips to keep your lawn looking beautiful – while saving you money!

1. **Water properly by watering less frequently, but more deeply.** Most experts agree that an inch of water once a week is about right for most lawns. This will vary with climate, soil composition, and time of year. To find the best watering cycle for your lawn, distribute several cans or other containers around your lawn and water the lawn. When the containers have one inch of water, turn off the water. Note how long it took to fill the containers to the one-inch mark – as you now know how long to water. You also know which areas don't get as much water and may need a sprinkler adjustment or change. It is time to water again when the lawn soil surface is dry to the touch. This insures that roots will grow deep. For sloped lots, watering the same amount of time but in three cycles allows the water to penetrate the soil instead of running off your lawn. Lastly, watering in early or late hours of the day is better for your lawn and can save you over 10% in water usage because of daytime evaporation.
2. **Organically fertilize the lawn at least once a year,** preferably in the fall. Your lawn may be sending signals about its needs without you realizing it. For example, grass loves nitrogen. Clover gets its nitrogen from the air, and grass from the soil. If clover is taking over your lawn; chances are that your soil is nitrogen deficient. Select a fertilizer with nitrogen (to help grass grow), potassium (to give grass strength to survive the winter), and phosphorus (to foster strong root systems and aid in seedling germination).
3. **Aerate the lawn regularly.** Soil compaction is one of the largest causes of weed problems. Aerating loosens your soil, allowing air, water, and nutrients to reach the roots of your grass. Most lawns should be aerated twice a year. You can rent an aerator, and cut costs by sharing amongst neighbors.
4. **Mow correctly.** Never cut off more than 30-40% of the grass blades in a single mowing. Also rotate the mowing pattern to reduce lawn compaction. As well, leaving a light layer of grass clippings on the grass, as they can provide up to half the lawns nitrogen requirements.

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