

## Growing a Lush, Green Lawn

With summer steadily approaching grass is slowly awakening from its dormancy stage, meaning its time for us to get our mowers serviced and ready to go. Hopefully this stage has already been completed, so lets talk about maintaining a lush, green lawn.

Mowing height is one of the most important practices to help your lawn achieve this goal. If in doubt set the mower deck as high as it will go. Taller grasses tend to develop deeper root systems and dry out slower than closely mowed grasses. Most fescues thrive at a height of about three inches; however turf type fescues tend to do better at a height of about 2-2.5 inches.

Lawn irrigation also plays an important roll in establishing and maintaining a lush, green lawn. Most lawns in Tennessee consist of cool-season grasses, like fescues. These types of grasses slow down and could go dormant in the heat of the summer. Lawns should be watered all summer as needed to keep them green unless you decide to let it go dormant. You should not allow the grass to turn brown and then water them back to a green condition, as this depletes energy reserves and stresses the plant.

Lawn should be watered deeply and infrequently, applying about 1 to 1.5 inches per application. Is also optimal to water early in the day to help eliminate evaporation and funguses.

It is best to hold off until later in the season for most other lawn care practices, including fertilizing, seeding, thatch control, and applying weed killers. The period from late August through early September is ideal for many of these practices. For now, help your lawn by proper mowing, watering, and keeping foot and vehicle traffic off the grass as much as possible during the heat of the summer months.