



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

Green Tips for a Greener Lawn

Having a beautiful lawn and being environmentally friendly can go hand in hand. Here are a few pointers that will help you maintain your curb appeal and reduce your environmental impact at the same time.

Best Watering Practices



Did you know that pampering your grass with frequent watering can actually cause shallow root growth? To build stronger, deeper roots, water deeply but less frequently. Deeper roots will make your lawn more drought-tolerant. Grass needs about one inch of water per week, and a good rain can satisfy the grass plants for up to two weeks. Using a rain gauge

can help you track the amount of water your lawn has received and make better decisions about when to water. Also consider aerating your lawn annually to reduce soil compaction and help promote stronger, deeper root growth.

Mowing Pointers

Set your mower height to three inches or higher. The longer the grass blades, the more room they have to transpire and produce energy that promotes growth and helps build a strong root system. Longer grass blades also help shade the root system and hold moisture in the soil. Of course, less frequent mowing also saves the gas or electricity that is used to power the lawn mower.

Lawn Chemicals

Using fertilizers and pesticides is a common practice. Did you know that fertilizing actually increases your lawn's need for water? To minimize this effect, use fertilizer mixes containing slow-release and water-insoluble forms of nitrogen. These will be gentler to the grass and last longer. When using pesticides, be sure to use the minimum amount to achieve the desired result. Both pesticides and fertilizers can be transported to storm drains and streams with rain water, so the

less you use, the better for the environment. more expensive than the reusable alternatives.

You can make a difference!