

Healthy Lawns

Mow

- Mow when grass is 2 1/2" to 3" tall. Set mower blade to cut no more than one-third of the surface at any one time.
- Mow on a regular basis, making sure the mower blade is sharp. Regular mowing reduces the need to bag grass clippings. Short clippings filter down to the soil and decompose quickly.
- Don't bag grass clippings. Leaving them on the lawn recycles valuable nutrients into the soil.
- If you do bag grass clippings, use them as mulch on gardens or around trees and shrubs, add them to your backyard compost pile or take them to one of seven Ramsey County compost sites.



Water

- 1" of water per week is needed in cool or warm weather.
- 1"-2" of water per week is needed in hot and/or windy weather.
- Most lawn sprinklers produce 1/4"-3/8" water per hour.
- The best time to water is early morning to avoid excessive evaporation.
- The worst time to water is late evening because the lawn stays wet all night, encouraging disease development.
- Excessive watering also encourages disease development.

Fertilize

- The most important times to apply fertilizer are late summer and late fall. This allows nitrogen to be absorbed by the grass when the growth is slow. The next spring's first growth will be greener and healthier.
- Lawns that are watered regularly and where clippings are not bagged benefit from 3 fertilizer applications - late spring, late summer and late fall.
- Lawns that are rarely watered benefit from one fertilizer application in early fall.