



A greener, more luxurious lawn is easy as 1,2,3,4!

Tips & Tools

Why is it that some gardeners have problems with lawns turning yellow and brown? Of course, some lawns maybe attacked by insects or disease but the main secrets are regular, deep watering, proper fertilization and proper mowing height.

Irrigation.

Almost all plants grow best when enough water is applied to reach the full depth of the root system and soil is allowed to dry out between irrigations. Plant roots need oxygen from the soil as well as water for optimum growth. Frequent, light irrigations fill soil pore spaces with water, temporarily reducing air supply. Grass can withstand these conditions better than most plants because of its fibrous root system. However, when soil is constantly moist on top, grass becomes soft and less resistant to drought and pest damage. Constantly moist soil is also an invitation for weed seed germination.

How much?

Daily, light irrigation keeps only the top inch or so of soil moist. If there's no moisture below this depth, grassroots are concentrated in this shallow area. This makes them more vulnerable to the stresses of drought, short mowing height and pests. If you space irrigations three days apart and apply twice as much water, you save third of the water. It may take a few weeks to coax grass roots to a greater soil depth. If soil will not absorb water as fast as it is applied, your sprinkler system can be cycled through twice or more at shorter times so water can soak in. This avoids waste runoff.

Look for fertilizers that contain gypsum, sulfur and iron. PAX utilizes these components as well as perlite as an inert ingredient in their products to help condition your soil.

Soil types.

Sandy soils should not need irrigation more than once every two days, even during the hottest part of summer. Clay soils should go three or four days between irrigations. If significant rain occurs (a quarter-inch or more) irrigation should be delayed for a day or so. As weather cools and day length becomes shorter in mid-August to early September, water application can be decreased by an extra day between irrigations. Don't decrease the amount of water applied in each irrigation.

Fertilization.

Because leaf growth uses mostly nitrogen, it is the largest ingredient in most lawn fertilizers. However, based on experience, research and experimentation over 60 years, PAX has developed fertilizers with the proper balance of nitrogen, phosphate and potash specifically for Intermountain soil and climate conditions. In the Mountain West, iron and sulfur are two additional, important nutrients. At least one percent iron is recommended, while five to ten percent sulfur will help reduce alkalinity. Use PAX or PRO PAX products – they contain more of these nutrients essential for your lawn. PRO PAX Iron Fertilizer is particularly effective with 11% Iron and 11% Sulfur, especially in summer heat. Lawn care companies apply fertilizer about once every six weeks. If you use an affordable PRO PAX All-Season Program, fewer applications are necessary.

Mowing height.

Mowing height has a strong influence on all other maintenance practices, especially irrigation and fertilization. Many homeowners mow their lawns short because they think they won't have to water or fertilize as often. Actually, mowing your lawn shorter increases the need to water and fertilize more frequently. Longer blades of grass have proportionately deeper roots, which absorb water and fertilizer more readily and are more resistant to heat and drought. If mowed at a height of one and a half inches, grass can be mowed when it is two and a half inches high. Up to an inch of leaf blade can be removed at each mowing. If mowed at three-quarter inch, no more than a half inch should be removed at each mowing.