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## Lawn Watering Tips

Proper lawn watering is a key lawn care component that will keep your grass growing and healthy. The lawn watering requirements for our area are, at a minimum, 1 inch per week. But, need to be increased in full sun, hot temperatures, high winds, and low humidity. But that does not mean you have to water every day.

The soil under the lawn has a lot to do with how often you need to water. Sandy soils do not hold water well, so a lawn grown on sand may have to be sprinkled two to three times a week if it doesn't rain. However, clay retains water well, and keeping your grass growing on a clay soil may require lawn watering only once a week.

Lawn watering should be done slowly and deeply, moistening soil to a depth of 3 – 4 inches, and as infrequently as possible. A strong root system makes for healthy grass, and letting your grass dry out a little encourages root growth. Grass will also slow its growth, which will help it survive the hot weather.

### Water Saving Tips

- Ideally, watering should be done in the morning when grass is used to receiving its moisture from dew. The second best choice is late afternoon. Too much water will evaporate if you water at midday and diseases could occur at night.
- Avoid over-fertilizing. Excessive nitrogen causes a grass growing spurt, and the plant requires more water.
- Increase your mowing height by about 1/2 inch. This extra height helps to shade the crowns of the plants during hot, dry weather.
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- Wait until your lawn shows signs of stress such as footprints or darker colors to begin watering. This is when the drought is bad enough to necessitate watering.
- Water infrequently but thoroughly. Keep the water in an area long enough for it to soak into the roots.
- Broadcast sprinklers, oscillating or rotating are best for both their overall coverage and water saturation.