



## Proper Lawn Maintenance

1. Do not begin watering too early in the season; depending on the weather, you can usually wait to turn on the sprinkler system until sometime in May
2. Only give your lawn the amount of water that it needs; the recommended amount is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " each time you water, which is equal to about 20-25 minutes for fixed spray heads and 40-45 minutes for rotors
3. Water every three days, at the most, during the hottest part of the summer unless you have a sandy soil that doesn't hold water well
4. Water during the cooler parts of the day (from 6:00 pm to 10:00 am) to avoid water loss due to evaporation
5. Check for and fix broken and problematic sprinklers at the beginning of the watering season and at least monthly afterwards
6. If you have secondary irrigation water, check and clean your filters at least monthly during the watering season
7. Fertilize the lawn three times during the year: May, September, and November
8. Aerate once a year or less in either the spring or fall
9. Do not mow more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the grass blade at a time
10. Sharpen your mower blade once or twice a year so it doesn't shred the grass while it cuts
11. Mow the lawn at 2-1/2 to 3" high; it will not dry out as quickly, and it will have less weeds
12. Mulch your grass clippings back onto the lawn instead of bagging them
13. As temperatures begin to decrease in the fall, cut back the watering frequency
14. Lower the mower blade to cut 1-1/2 to 2" high at the end of the growing season