Feed Your Lawn

Adding compost to your lawn is a great way to improve its health. Compost feeds the beneficial microbes in the soil, which in turn feeds your lawn, making nutrients available for uptake by the grass. Top-dress your lawn by spreading a thin layer of compost on top of your turf. **Healthy soil means healthy grass that can out-compete weeds**. If you plan on using commercial fertilizers, it is best to use a slow release formula. This will help to prevent chemicals from entering our streams, and waterways.

Go Pesticide Free

Many pest and weed problems can be overcome by taking care of your lawn. If your lawn is susceptible to disease try over seeding with a mix of perennial rye grass, this will help choke out weeds and is relatively pest resistant. Products like Weed & Feed are harmful to the overall health of your lawn, killing **beneficial** organisms and leading to thatch build up.

Helpful Websites

» For more information on irrigation contractors and on a proper watering schedule, check out the Irrigation Industry Association of British Columbia's website:
www.irrigationbc.com

» For lawn alternatives:
www.lesslawn.com

» Healthy lawn ideas:
healthyorganiclawn.com

Summer drought is the 'new normal'. So is managing our water supply better. This brochure series offers tips and tools to make 'living to the new normal' easier.

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Healthy
Lawn Care

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Water Deeply and Infrequently

Your lawn needs at most 1 inch of water each week, including rainfall

Water efficient lawn care is a great way to conserve water and is also beneficial to the health of your lawn.

During the summer, water use triples in the region.

Increased use in landscaping, pools and gardens and agriculture all have a major impact on resources. Property owners can help out with proper lawn care if they must have lawns.

As a result, local governments must place outdoor watering restrictions when there are prolonged periods of hot weather.

Beginning in the springtime, work on building a healthy lawn which will require less water, less maintenance and be less likely to lose its lush colour during the summer.

A healthy lawn is better able to block out weeds and prevent disease or discolouration. It also allows you more time to enjoy the outdoors. Start now and discover how enjoyable a healthy lawn can be!

Over watering is one of the leading causes of lawn problems. Starting in spring, water your lawn right. This will help promote healthy and deep root growth and your lawn will require less water year round. Too much water starves the soil of oxygen, invites disease and creates runoff. Choose one day to water each week; watering too frequently can weaken your lawn.

Over Seed

Re-seed your lawn each year. Ask your local nursery for advice when choosing seeds. It is best to get a mix which includes Perennial Rye Grass and Fine Fescues because they require less water, fertilizer and maintenance than straight Kentucky Bluegrass. If one area of your yard has never adapted well to grass, try planting a different form of ground cover like creeping thyme, mosses or sedums.

These steps have been approved by Health Canada, Environment Canada, Garden Smart and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mow High

Leave your lawn long — remove only 1/3 of the grass each time you mow. Longer lawns help promote deep root growth and will provide shade for the soil, preventing evaporation. An ideal length for your grass should be around 3 inches high.

Grass Cycle

Try leaving the grass clippings on your lawn, as they are a beneficial fertilizer to your lawn. Grass clippings can provide 30% of the nitrogen that your lawn needs each summer as well as provide

moisture. Nitrogen, one of the three main components of fertilizer, is used to promote growth. Grass cycling will not create thatch build-up.

Keep Your Mower in Shape

Make sure that your blades are sharp. Dull blades will rip the grass, not cut it, leading to disease and discolouration. Taking care of your mower will also increase its lifespan.

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