

Let Your Lawn Tell You When To Water

By: Melinda Sperl

With the heat above 90 degrees it is time to start taking care of our lawns and making sure the grass gets enough water. How do you know how much water to use? Too much water is a source of fungus and unhealthy lawns. Too little and you get a patchy brown lawn.

Let your lawn tell you when it needs to be watered by walking across your grass. If you can see your footprints behind you, you need more water. Healthy and well watered St Augustine grass will spring back when it is bent. Water only enough to get the soil moist but not enough that you have run off. Two inches per week is a good rule of thumb. You can test this by putting a can on your lawn to measure each time you water until you get a good feel for it. Raising your lawnmower to the highest level will give you a greener lawn and will reduce evaporation which, in turn, will reduce the amount of water needed to water it.

With an irrigation system I usually suggest rotaries run at least 30 minutes 3x's per week and spray heads 10 mins. But this can vary with every lawn. Never water your grass every day as that will only create shallow rooted grass and unhealthy trees.

Yellow grass usually means that the lawn is getting too much water. You could either be watering too much or it is a low area that is holding water. By keeping this moisture down you can also reduce your mosquito population as they thrive in over watered lawns.

Happy Gardening!

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