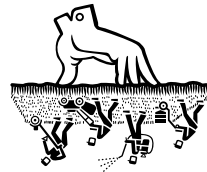


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- 4 Friendly employees whom you will recognize week-to-week
- 4 Highly trained and licensed (if applicable) personnel
- 4 Top-of-the-line, well-maintained equipment
- 4 An organized company with computer support for scheduling and communication
- 4 Quality Assurance: system of checks and balances
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- 4 Experience
- 4 Dependability
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## SUMMER SPECIAL

### TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

This is the time of year when we actively seek new customers. We would appreciate any referrals that you send to us. If you are happy with our services, tell your friends and neighbors and get a bonus from us.

For one qualified referral, you get one week's regularly scheduled service FREE!

For three (3) or more qualified referrals in your neighborhood, you receive one week's regular scheduled service FREE, AND you are eligible for a great group discount!

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# YARD SMARTS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS OF THE LAWN MOWGUL

## CALENDAR

### JUNE/JULY

**Fertilize:** Granular fertilization and pre-emergent broad leaf weed control, plus Crab Grass and Dallis Grass weed control.

**Mulch:** Add mulch around your trees and shrubs to keep soil moist and heat away from root systems.

### AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

**Aeration:** Creates a thicker, greener, and healthier lawn.

**Fertilize:** Add 28-3-10 fertilizer with iron.

**Flowers:** It's time to pre-order your fall flowers. Late summer is a great time to plant irises

## KEEPING YOUR YARD BEAUTIFUL

**D**ensity, texture, color, root growth and mowing influences other measures of turf quality. Grass species and varieties differ in their mowing requirements; Lawn Mowgul employees know exactly how and when to mow your yard to give you the best results.

We set our mowing schedules to make your yard look the best and here's why. Bermudagrass should be mowed shorter than St. Augustine grass because closer mowing stimulates rhizomes and leaf production in bermudagrass. St. Augustine becomes quite stemmy if mowed too close.

The depth of the root system of a turfgrass is proportional to the mowing height. The shorter the mowing height, the shorter the root system. Common bermuda grass should be mowed at 1 to 2 inches high and St. Augustine grass at 2 to 3 inches. Also, grasses growing in partial or dense shade should be mowed higher than those grown in full sunlight.

Mowing frequency is another factor that affects your yard's appearance. When a turf is mowed frequently, only a small percentage of the leaf area is removed each time. As a general rule, the shorter the mowing height, the more often the grass should be mowed. Another general guideline is to remove no more than 30 to 40 percent of the growth at any single mowing.

Grass clippings contribute valuable plant nutrients and organic matter to the soil when left to decompose in the turf. Removing these clippings may deplete the soil of nutrients and organic matter. However, if the mowing frequency is not adequate, large amounts of clippings will remain on the surface after mowing and should be removed for appearance and to prevent smothering the grass. Mowing height and frequency should be timed so that the grass clippings may be left to decompose.

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## WATER MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR LAWN

Watering is one of the basic elements of lawn maintenance, and often one of the costliest. Homeowners in Texas estimate that nearly 30 percent of lawn maintenance cost is for watering. Good water management is essential.

### HOW MUCH WATER

Apply enough water to a lawn to wet the top 4 to 6 inches of soil. Light, frequent applications of water produce weak, shallow-rooted turf highly susceptible to stress. The application of 1/2 to 1 inch of water will adequately wet most soil. Less water is required on a sandy soil. The time required to wet the soil to this depth depends on the type of sprinkler used, the water pressure available and the rate at which water moves into the soil. Sloping sites require light watering at frequent intervals.

Be sure water is applied uniformly to the lawn. Uneven applications result in dry spots. To check the distribution pattern of a sprinkler, place three to five empty cans of the same size in a straight line going away from a sprinkler, operate the sprinkler for awhile, then measure the amount of water in each can to determine the uniformity of application and the amount of water applied.

In some soils, especially heavy clay soils, it is difficult to water to a depth of 6 inches. Do not apply water to these soils to the point of run-off. If the sprinkler is applying water faster than the soil will absorb it, either move the sprinkler to a new location or turn it off to allow the water to soak into the soil. After the surface has dried, move the sprinkler back to the original location and apply additional water. Repeat this procedure several times to wet the root zone thoroughly.

To determine the depth of water penetration, push a garden spade or a sharp probe into the soil. The probe will move into the soil very easily where it is moist. The probe becomes harder to push when it hits dry soil.

## MULCH MATTERS

Here are some of the most suitable organic mulches for Texas:

- 3 Composted yard waste: make your own. It's also available free from some cities.
- 3 Chips of conifer bark, particularly pine or redwood: attractive, fairly inexpensive and available in bags; will fade to gray and may blow or wash away.
- 3 Shredded cypress: lighter in color but the best for long life and its tendency to form cohesive mats; ideal for preventing soil erosion.

- 3 Pine needles: readily available in the eastern half of the state.
- 3 Sheet or shredded newspaper: works well in vegetable gardens.

These are suitable inorganic mulch materials:

- 3 Stone and gravel: excellent mulch for rock gardens or for adding texture and color contrasts to the landscape.
- 3 Sheets of black plastic film: good for weed prevention in large areas without plants.
- 3 Landscape fabric: allows passage of air and water and prevents weeds.

## 5 TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN

Although you can still plant warm-season turfgrasses such as St. Augustine and Bermuda in late summer, be prepared to water thoroughly and regularly until your grass is established, usually for about three to four weeks. If your lawn is already up and growing, here are some tips to keep it healthy and attractive during these hottest months of the year.

**Call us for your fertilizer needs at (214) 522-5159.**

- 1 Leave your automatic sprinkler system in the "Manual" mode whenever possible to conserve water.
- 2 Fertilize your Bermuda turf. Repeat in late September. Withholding fertilizer from St. Augustine in August will reduce the chance of gray leaf spot disease.
- 3 Watch for chinch bug, damage in sunny parts of St. Augustine turf. They cause dry areas. The insects are black, with white diamonds on their wings.
- 4 White grub worms may be devouring grass roots. Check soil for four or more young grubs per square foot.
- 5 Symptoms of gray leaf spot damage resemble chinch bug damage in St. Augustine. Lesions on leaves are diamond-shaped, gray-brown on leaves and runners.

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