



THE LAWN BUSINESS' **GUIDE TO MOWING AND WATERING**



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We hope you are enjoying your new lawn and are pleased with the results of the work carried out by The Lawn Business - thanks again for your custom!



To help you on your way with caring for and maintaining your lawn, we have put together this short guide for you.

We have tried to keep it as simple and straightforward as possible but good lawn care can be complicated at times so do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any assistance.

All the best!

Tim McNamara

Owner, The Lawn Business



Lawn Care Specialist



MOWING

Love it or hate it, lawn mowing is essential to maintain the health and appearance of your lawn. Regular and correct mowing will thicken the lawn and keep it healthy. But it can also be done badly and it is possible to destroy a good lawn with poor mowing practices. We really don't want you to waste good money and time damaging a lawn by poor mowing so please note these key pointers to inform your mowing arrangements.



New lawn from seed

The new shoots should be allowed to develop with as little interference as possible. **Once the leaf has reached around 2-3 inches it will be time for a first cut, preferably using a light mower.** Ensure the blades are sharp to prevent ripping the plant or pulling it from the soil all together. Be very careful when turning as the new shoots are fragile and still relatively shallow-rooted. **Do not take more than 0.5 inch off at any one time.**

Regular mowing will be required thereafter if the lawn is still growing and the height of cut can be gradually reduced but never cut more than a third of the leaf at any one time (see General Guidelines below).

New lawn from turf

Turf is essentially established grasses which are accustomed to being cut to a certain length. The continue this, once the turf is well-rooted (usually after around a couple of weeks depending on sufficient watering and suitable weather conditions), the turf can be mown. **Cut the lawn with the blades set high** - the idea is that only the tips of the leaf are taken off. **Do not take off more than a third of the leaf at any one time and do not cut below 1-1.50 inch as this will weaken the plant.**

As the turf establishes further, regular mowing can continue during the year - see the General Guidelines below.

Renovated lawn with established grasses and new grasses from seed

Obviously, there will be a mixture of existing grass plants and new, more fragile shoots following a lawn renovation. **The key is to allow the new shoots to establish whilst at the same time ensuring the existing grasses remain healthy and well-maintained.** Ideally, the lawn will have been mown very short immediately before the lawn renovation work was carried out - this ensures as far as possible that the existing plants do not outgrow the new plants too much.

Follow the guidelines for a new lawn from seed (above), and resist the temptation to mow the existing grasses too short and too soon.

GENERAL MOWING GUIDELINES

- Mowing too low is the biggest cause of lawn problems but mowing too high/not frequently enough also causes damage.
- Ensure mowers are well maintained and have sharp blades - blunt blades can damage the grass plant and encourage disease.
- Lawns should not be cut to less than 1-1.50 inches at any time - this can be the usual height during mid/late spring and summer.
- The lawn should be left longer in autumn/winter and in early spring (around 2-2.5 inches) to maintain leaf surface area while light levels are low. Slopes, uneven or shady areas should also be cut at this height to avoid scalping.
- The lawn should also be left longer (2-2.5 inches) in dry and/or hot conditions to provide a canopy shade effect and avoid desiccation.
- Letting the grass grow too long can damage certain grass varieties in your lawn and lead to a thinner grass coverage encouraging weed and moss penetration.
- Long/overgrown lawns should be gradually reduced by taking no more than a third off the grass leaf each time - going from long to short in one mow can damage and stress the grass plants.
- Avoid mowing in the same direction/pattern every time.
- To minimise thatch and debris building up on the surface of the soil, it is best practice to remove all clippings rather than leave them on the lawn surface.
- Mow as frequently as the grass requires - more frequently (at least once per week, twice per week if you're keen), during the growth periods in spring and autumn, less frequently in hot, dry summer conditions and winter.
- Do not mow for a few days after a seasonal lawn treatment has been applied - this is to ensure that the relevant products are properly taken up.
- If your lawn has moss in it, avoid mowing too short as this could disperse the moss spores - treat and remove the moss first if possible.



WATERING

As with mowing, if you do not water the lawn in the right way and at the right times, you may undo all the good work and money spent. Depending on the state of your lawn and the prevailing weather conditions, different irrigation techniques may be required if you want to keep your lawn healthy and green.



Seeded areas and new shoots

Grass seed requires warmth and moisture to germinate and establish. Failure to water seeded areas correctly will inhibit germination and grass plant establishment. You must ensure that the seeded areas are kept moist by **watering “little and often” in the absence of sufficient rainfall. The idea is to keep the surface/seed moist at all times.**

As roots are established, watering should be for longer and less frequently with the aim of getting water down through the soil surface to the root zone. **Do not flood the area. Avoid using a strong jet or a powerful sprinkler spray with new seed as this can cause pooling and wash the seed around into clumps. Water gently to keep the seed moist and in place.**

Newly laid turf

In the absence of sufficient rainfall, newly laid turf should be watered frequently and deeply (avoiding pooling), to ensure that the water penetrates through the turf and into the soil, to encourage root development. **This could mean watering daily for the first week, 2-3 times a week for the next 2-3 weeks and then weekly after that.**





Established lawns

To maintain a healthy, lush and green lawn, you will need to water the lawn in the absence of sufficient rainfall. Summer can present the most concerns with high temperatures, sometimes extreme, and lower rainfall threatening to dry the lawn out. **Use a sprinkler for an hour or two each time - the idea is to get sufficient water through the soil and into the root zone (usually 2-3 inches deep).**

Grass plants begin to turn yellow and then brown as drought conditions begin to take hold - they can then go dormant (some may die completely), when leaf growth is suspended during the dry period. If dry and/or hot periods are forecast, deep watering, should be carried out to get as much water into the root zone as possible beforehand.

Avoid watering in hot, sunny conditions as the water may simply evaporate before it has a chance to get to the root zone and may also scorch the lawn. Avoid watering late in the day as this can leave the lawn damp overnight and encourage disease.

Water in seasonal treatments

Where granular products have been applied to the lawn, you will need to ensure these are watered in if there is insufficient rainfall in the days following the treatment. This is to ensure the product is washed off the grass leaf and into the soil and also to activate the relevant ingredients applied. **This should only require 5-10 minutes of irrigation with a sprinkler or a hose (avoid using a strong jet).**



Thanks again for your custom!

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