

SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Benefits of Frequent Mowing

- Growth hormones present in the apex of plants prevent lateral bud growth and tillering - referred to as 'apical dominance'
- By clipping grasses frequently, apical dominance is destroyed and stimulation of lateral buds and tillering is encouraged
- Grass becoming finer, sod thicker and more dense
- Cutting stimulates rhizome and sod formation
- Establish a desirable height of cut and maintain it!

Seasonal Considerations

- Established lawns should be cut early in the spring, as soon as the grass begins to grow.
- Grass grows in cycles; quicker in the spring and autumn.
- **Golden Rule: Mow when needed!**

Grass itself will provide criterion as to the need to adjust mowing practices:

- July/August: Clippings decrease due to heat. Reduction in mowing frequency and raising height will help grass to survive.
- In spring and autumn, grass grows quicker, producing more clippings.
- Close mowing during warm weather will weaken grasses, because the plant's respiration rate increases and uses nutrient reserves.
- Before winter, under normal conditions, grasses should be cut at or slightly below normal height. This depends on what conditions winter normally brings.

Clippings

- Clippings should be left on a lawn
- Plant nutrients are removed with the clippings. They should be substituted with fertilizer if the clippings are collected.
- When lawns are mowed frequently, only a small amount of top growth is removed each time.
- Clippings are primarily composed of water
- Young, tender, short clippings decompose rapidly.
- If clippings are long, it is advisable to remove them to prevent them from smothering the lawn.
- Turfgrass should be cut in a different direction every time. This encourages the grass shoot to stand upwards, resulting in a better quality of cut.

