

## *Success Tip...*

### **Summer Lawn Care**

The summer season can be a very trying time for homeowner's and their lawns. So, here are a few general tips to help keep your lawn looking its best this summer.

1.) Keep mowing on a regular basis. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades each time you mow.

2.) Mow at a higher mowing height. Keep your mowing height at least 2 ½ to 3 inches. Longer grass blades mean less stress on the turf, the crowns are shaded and protected from the heat of the sun, grass roots should grow deeper, and your turf will do much nicer during the summer than the lawns mowed close and stressed.

3.) Change your mowing pattern each time you mow. Mow east to west one week, then north to south the next. Then take it diagonally. Just like the golf course pros do! This encourages your grass to grow upright, rather than laying down (being mowed one direction all the time) and definitely creates a happier lawn!

4.) Throw those clippings back into the turf. Returning those clippings is like one additional fertilizing each year. Grass clippings are 75-85% water, decompose quickly, and do not create thatch problems.

5.) Have those mowers blades sharpened on a regular basis, which means at least 3-4 times throughout the mowing season. Dull blades shred rather than cut which will give your lawn a yellowed look, and will make the grass more susceptible to disease.

6.) Be sure to clean out under the mower deck when you're finished mowing. It's important to remove that grass build up, especially if you have an under the deck exhaust. It also helps the mower deck to operate properly. So keep under the deck cleaned!

7.) Last, but very important, if your lawn doesn't get enough rainfall, water as needed. Remember the golden rule of 1 inch of rainfall every 10 days or so. If we don't get it naturally, you have to supplement. And when you do supplement, do it all at one time; a deep, thorough watering. Deep watering creates a deeper rooted lawn, which makes it much sturdier during possible drought situations, as well as being a much healthier lawn. Please, don't be a water tease. One thorough watering is much better for the lawn and all plants, than frequent watering teases!

