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“Your Home Turf Advantage”

PROACTIVELY PREPARING YOUR LAWN FOR ANOTHER HOT & DRY GROWING SEASON

The last couple years in Central Alberta seem to be trending towards some ongoing drought conditions. Whether that’s going to become our new normal or just a few hot and dry years, is debatable. However, the illustrious weather prognosticators are once again warning us already that we may be in for above average temperatures and less than average cumulative rainfall for this year’s growing season.

We all know that the new norm every Spring seems to be that we could surely use some more moisture as there doesn’t seem to be as much snow in recent winters as previous ones... Farmers’ fields could use it and the forests and grasslands, too, as they’re starting off as dry tinder boxes in-waiting. They’re already not only warning us about the increased forest fire and grass fire risk again this year, but we surely are hearing about these fires in the news already.

So, it’s fair to say, it’s wise to think ahead and proactively prepare for what may come, just in case. Better that than to realize we’re in the midst of drought conditions and then have to suddenly respond to “Yikes, my lawn is taking a beating from this heat and lack of rain... It’s turning all brown and brittle already... It looks like it’s dying... What do I do?”

You can’t beat Mother Nature sometimes, but we surely can do some things that will give us some advance preventative protection for any extreme temperature and moisture changes that may come our way.



THE CHALLENGE

In the face of hot summers and scarce rain, maintaining a lush, green lawn can be challenging, but it’s not impossible. If we give up in advance, saying, “*What’s the use to bother with it?*” or “*They’re just going to restrict water usage in our city anyway...*” or “*It costs too much to keep on watering...*” then we risk creating more serious problems, down the road, for ourselves. Of course, the choice is yours to make.

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However, there are some common-sense things we can do ongoing to help our lawns to NOT suffer the ravages of excessive heat and/or drought conditions. There's no escaping our lawns potentially browning up and drying up a bit if it's too hot and dry (that would be normal), but the key thing is for them to be amply prepared to recover quickly once we're back to more normal reasonable growing conditions.

So here's the challenge —

Having a beautiful, green, lush, thick lawn is an enviable accomplishment for homeowners. For most of us, having our lawn go through occasional times of drought seems inevitable as the weather changes. Hot summers can oftentimes stress our lawn, leaving it vulnerable to discolouration and temporary damage.

Once-lush lawns may become dried-out, patchy and brown landscapes. Additionally, water scarcity will weaken the lawn, making it potentially more susceptible to pests and diseases, too.

And whenever our lawns struggle it's amazing how quickly weeds will suddenly be appearing... Weeds don't like competition from healthy grass but if the grass isn't currently healthy, they will opportunistically take a foothold.

The soil beneath the lawn may also become compacted and dry, hindering water retention and nutrient absorption. All these impacts threaten the entire ecosystem and sustainability of your yard's landscaping efforts. So yes, these are the very real challenges to be faced.

So let's review and proactively consider some preventative maintenance lawn care practices that will give us a better chance of our lawns NOT struggling too much this growing season, should the weather not be in our favour —

*** Remember also that *“the measure you put into something is apt to be the measure you'll get out of it for results”*, too. That means this will require some commitment to monitoring of weather and lawn conditions and some ongoing remedial lawn care efforts.**

But have no fear... DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR LAWN!

In our region, drought conditions are normally just temporary...

With a strategic and practical approach, you can maintain a lush and healthy outdoor space for most of the growing season, even in the driest conditions. That is... “IF” you proactively incorporate lawn care practices that treat your lawn correctly so that it's prepared to stand a better chance at survival during drought conditions. Drought conditions will definitely impact any lawn, so don't be surprised if it may wane for a bit. However, any good and healthy grass will eventually bounce right back in short order.

THE BOTTOM-LINE IS THIS —

Strong, lush, healthy lawns can withstand and/or recover from drought stress much faster because they have solid deep root systems and thick top growth that also provides a degree of shading for itself. So ideally, that's the condition you want to get your lawn in even before any drought conditions may set in.

NOTE: On the one hand, it seems almost premature to be talking about drought conditions which we may not encounter till perhaps July or August. However, we all know that in our area we can typically get a lot of rain during May and June, more than we'd like sometimes, even though the ground may desperately need it. In that regard, our poor lawns sometimes go from one extreme to the other for a few weeks or so here and there... If it's very wet & cool followed by hot & dry, or vice versa, and that cycles back and forth for awhile, that's going to greatly stress our lawns, too, needless to say. But there's little we can do about that. However this is key... If your lawn was healthy to begin with, it'll likely handle any extreme variability without much problem at all. But if your lawn isn't in great condition or it's already been struggling for awhile for whatever the reasons, it's going to be more challenging to get it to be all that you want it to be.

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So, of course, if we're experiencing too much rain at the early part or any part of the season, we simply water less (or not at all if there's been sufficient rain)... Then once it's warmer and dried up a bit we can return to routine proper watering.

KEEPING YOUR LAWN WELL-MAINTAINED BEFORE ANY DROUGHT CONDITIONS IS A MUST. THAT'S GOING TO DETERMINE HOW WELL IT'S GOING TO DO DURING ANY SUBSEQUENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND THEREAFTER, TOO.

Like we say for so many things regarding lawn care... once you've obtained a lush, vibrant, healthy weed-free lawn, you have to maintain that.

It won't magically stay that way from then on without some effort on your part. You have to keep on nurturing that, and as you do that, you'll find that your lawn will become more drought-tolerant and less susceptible to weeds or any lawn problems or even the occasional fungal disease. While others who don't do much with their lawns or may not have great lawn care habits, may have lawns that are looking rather tired, worn out and thinning, or seemingly always encountering weeds or the occasional fungal disease, you'll have a lawn that's still thriving no matter what happens.

So let's start from the beginning —

Drought is most often associated not only with very hot temperatures but of course, the lack of enough water... whether that be from rain or our lawn sprinklers or irrigation systems.

So before we get into this any further let's talk about the proper kind of watering. Then later we'll consider one by one, the BEFORE, the DURING, and the AFTER of drought conditions being experienced by our lawns, and what we should be proactively doing.

***** It goes without saying that PROPER WATERING IS KEY —
But NOT too much, NOR too little... NOR too often.**

- ✗ Do not make the all too common mistake of coming home from work and turning on your lawn sprinklers for 15 to 20 minutes every evening... Even during drought conditions that's the wrong thing to do. Chances also are that your lawn may still remain wet throughout the night making it more susceptible to potential fungal diseases.
- ✓ Rather, water your lawn only once or twice per week in the early morning (ideally between 5 am and 8 am) when it's cooler. That's also when evaporation from heat and wind is minimal. That's when grass and plants are waking up, so to speak, and doing their natural up-taking of water and nutrients the best. Be sure to space out your watering sessions to allow the soil some time to dry. By that we mean, if it's still wet from the previous watering then wait another day or so.
- ✓ Water deeply... Don't be afraid to put down a good inch of water each time. Everybody's sprinklers may deliver water at different rates but if you're wondering what that might be time-wise, we'd estimate watering for a good hour for that 1 inch or so of water each time. Be mindful as you move your sprinkler around to different areas of your lawn, etc., to allow enough time for that 1 inch or so.
- ✓ However, if it's very hot for consecutive days and drought conditions are persisting longer than expected, or if your grass, clearly is crying for it, consider watering your lawn three times per week. That means you'll be putting down as much as 3 inches of water during the week from the three waterings combined. This will help it grow deeper roots and thereby become more drought-tolerant. Anything more than that, though, really shouldn't be necessary.
- ✗ Shallow watering and/or watering more frequently causes shallow roots wherein the roots are going to spread out just beneath the surface of the soil... This WILL result in weaker struggling turf especially when it's hot and dry, and all the more so if the soil beneath your grass is rather dried out & compacted.

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✓ **If you have an irrigation system, set it for once or twice per week in the early morning and run it to put down about an inch of water each time.** This will drive your roots deeper over time. Likewise, you should space out your watering sessions to allow the soil some time to dry.

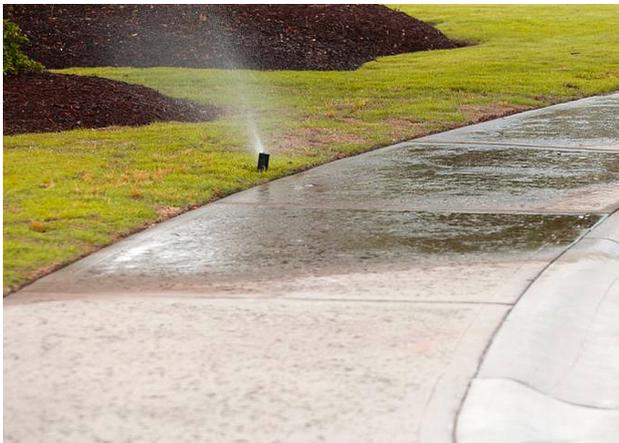
*** To summarize, **we recommend the 1-2-1 WATERING METHOD which essentially advocates for once per week watering in May, twice per week watering during the summer, and once per week watering again as we move into the cooler temperatures towards the end of August or first part of September.**

The 1-2-1 method is a general guideline... Depending upon conditions, you may consider 2 waterings earlier than summertime and you may consider 3 waterings in extremely hot and dry conditions. But as we said above, anything more than that is likely unnecessary and potentially a waste of water. You may end up working against yourself as healthy lawns don't need excessive watering. Plus if your grass during drought conditions appears to be getting a little dormant already and not really seeming to grow currently, let it do so... as that's its own natural defence mechanism, too. [More to say about that shortly].

WATERING RESPONSIBLY IS KEY, TOO —

It's not surprising that cities occasionally institute watering bans —

Of course, it's mostly because their water reserves are low and they're trying to conserve it as much as possible for everybody's reasonable usage. But I suspect we've likely all seen the worst case out there occasionally, too... Perhaps you know what we mean... Inevitably someone's out there every day, in the middle of the hottest part of a sunny day, and they've got all their sprinklers going full blast, not only seeming to be watering all their lawn and their garden and flower beds for hours on end, but also some of that falling wastefully on their driveway or sidewalks, too, without a thought to water usage... Yes, it's of course true that all living things, including plants and our lawns need water to survive. But whilst watering one's lawn is vitally important, we have to be responsible with that, too.



Water restrictions are becoming more common these days —

Unfortunately, the same local government that may institute the water ban for restricting watering of lawns will oftentimes allow you to still water your flowers and gardens with few if any restrictions. Nor do they ever seem to restrict golf courses from watering as often as they need to. The potential rather expensive irony of that is that it would cost you a heck of a lot more to fix or replace a totally dried out dead lawn than it will to replace a few flowers or vegetables that might die off... I guess lawns are deemed to be less important or necessary than flowers and gardens, and golf courses are the most important (LOL). We're, of course, not advocating disobeying the law by any means, but do understand that if you do not water a lawn that is becoming very dried out, you're only creating potentially serious, and perhaps very costly problems for yourself.

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Your lawn may end up struggling for a very long time thereafter to get back to normal if you hadn't watered it for weeks or months. If it wasn't a very healthy lawn to begin with, there may be no coming back from that kind of denial of water (which grass needs in order to survive).

We are aware of some homeowners with in-ground sprinkler systems who set theirs limited to one heavy watering per week very early in the morning (before the world is awake), and they do the major part of their water restricting on their flowers and gardens instead. That might be a reasonable compromise and fair exchange but it's up to each homeowner themselves as to how they water or not during water-restricted times. As I said above, the real problem is people who are deciding to keep their sprinklers turned on in the middle of the hottest part of the day wherein it's not going to benefit their lawn as much as they might think, and they're wasting the water due to evaporation. As mentioned earlier, it's the early morning when grass does its normal up-taking of water and nutrients the best.

Given the trending over the last few years to summer drought conditions with watering restrictions, we highly recommend that you perhaps consider the following as a possible viable alternative —

Consider a “RAINWATER CATCHMENT OR COLLECTION SYSTEM” that allows you to store rainwater for later use.

Depending upon your own handyman/handywoman skills, you can potentially build one yourself —

It could be something as simple as having your roof eaves troughs drain off rainwater into barrels and then utilizing that water to irrigate your lawn or water any plants, etc. Some people get creative and hook up solar-powered pumps and timers to create a novel irrigation system for their lawns, gardens and backyard greenhouses. It's actually not that hard to do and it will free you from depending on city or well water, or the ongoing water costs, needless to say. This can provide a sustainable, low-cost water source independent of external supplies. Of course, these types of systems, albeit a bit more fancy and complex, can also be purchased at local garden centres or home improvement stores.

I guess we're suggesting the above as the last thing you want to do when watering restrictions are in place, is to completely stop watering your lawns for many weeks. As mentioned earlier, everything that lives needs water in order to survive, and that includes your lawns. So, we need to think proactively and prepare as best we can...

Okay, let's consider what to do, BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER drought conditions...

PART 1 — Before Any Drought Conditions Are Upon Us —

The goal is to get your lawn as healthy and resilient as possible at least 30 to 45 days before any expected drought conditions. Here are some good practices we recommend:

- Regularly check your soil quality and moisture level within your lawn.
 - Simply poke a big screwdriver into it... If it goes in easy and upon pulling it out there's some moist dirt on it, you're likely okay and don't need to be watering it just yet.
 - But if the ground beneath your lawn is compacted and your screwdriver doesn't enter the ground very easily, without a lot of pressure being applied, and upon extracting it, there's no moist soil on it, you definitely could use some watering.
- If you haven't already done so, consider power-raking and aerating your lawn, too.
 - This, typically, should be done early in the Spring (Mid-April to Mid-May) as one of the first lawn maintenance practices of the year, just as your lawn is beginning to grow and green-up.

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- Aeration aids in reducing soil compaction and delivering oxygen, water, and nutrients more directly to the roots of your grass.
 - The open spaces it creates, also improves root expansion and provides voids for fertilizer and nutrients... and if re-seeding or over-seeding, enables the seed to enter in more deeply, without washing away.
 - The aeration cores or plugs will break down over a few weeks and refeed your lawn with valuable nutrients.
- You can also consider adding a half-inch layer of compost lightly spread as a top-dressing over your lawn early every Spring.
 - This will help your lawn hold moisture better and will also reduce the water evaporation, too.
 - It will help improve your soil's texture and structure as it breaks down and gets down to where it counts.
- You may also consider seeding or overseeding/thickening your lawn with drought-resistant grass species like tall or fine fescue, for example.
 - They tend to fare better and are a little more hardy when it comes to excessive heat and dry times.
- Remember also that by watering your lawn infrequently yet deeply, you will increase it's resiliency to surviving drought, because the grass roots will have grown down deeper to where the soil is cooler and retains moisture longer than near the surface.
- If you know you're in for possible drought conditions this growing season (and unless you're desiring an ornamental lawn like a perfectly manicured golf course green), perhaps consider letting it grow longer.
 - Without regular mowing or mowing as often, you can give your grass a chance to establish more strongly and become more resilient to drought.
 - You can always mow it later if it's getting too long.
- That being said, ensure that your mower blades are always sharp.
 - Dull blades don't cut the grass as cleanly, and studies have shown that grass blades then need about 50% more water to recover properly.
- Remember too, that as the temperatures get hotter and drought conditions may be approaching, raise the mowing height a good ½ inch to 1 inch to 3½ to 4 inches height or so.
 - Taller grass shoots mean deeper roots.
 - Also, the higher grass blades shade the soil surface and crowns of the grass, thereby reducing evaporation of soil moisture during the daytime heat.
 - This will oblige grass roots to grow deeper in search of moisture, too.
 - Mowing higher also helps prevent pests, since most common lawn-munching insects won't typically lay eggs in longer grass.
- Notwithstanding any power-raking you may have already done to get rid of excessive thatch, and before you get into the hottest and driest part of the year, it's also okay to allow the mulched grass clippings to remain on your lawn.
 - As they break down, they will return valuable nutrients and moisture to the lawn.
 - This will help improve your lawn health throughout the growing season.
- Also... be sure to follow up with a regular periodic regimen of fertilizer and weed control herbicide when the grass is actively growing.
- You want to be sure to get rid of weeds and to feed your lawn the proper nutrients before the lawn gets stressed. The uncanny ability that weeds do have is that when our lawns may be struggling during drought conditions, weeds will seemingly immediately take advantage of your turf's weakness and move right in.

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- Don't allow weeds any foothold, as they will surely arise if they're already resting there, unbeknownst to you, within your soil just waiting for the opportune time when they can burst forth to use up existing resources and take the place of your grass.

PART 2 — During Excessively Hot & Dry Times —

Once drought sets in, it's only a matter of time before your grass will start to wilt, dry out and turn brown.... But have no fear... that's normal.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Before I mention anything else, be aware that even during drought conditions, your lawn is still growing. *** **A DORMANT LAWN IS NOT A DEAD LAWN; IT'S A SURVIVAL MECHANISM. Temporary dormancy is actually beneficial to your lawn. It is your turf's way of shutting down non-essential activities like new top-growth, and focusing instead on storing water and energy to preserve the roots and crown.**

Most grass can remain dormant for 2 to 3 weeks. Some hardy varieties can last even longer. But how you treat your lawn during a drought can affect how well it recovers once the rain or water returns.

In a well-established lawn, even though you may see the grass thinning or the top-growth browning and seeming like it's dying, its underlying roots should still be alive despite its dried-out, water-starved look. You have to remember that drought stress is temporary, so it's a matter of having your lawn survive these conditions so that once the weather conditions stabilize, the grass will grow healthy and strong again. We all love green grass. However, it is vital to understand that brown grass is still alive and can bounce back when the drought conditions are over.

So here's some lawn care tips to help your lawn survive drought conditions:

- Keep an eye on local weather conditions... Optimize your lawn care practices accordingly.
- Keep an eye on your lawn's ongoing condition.
 - The first sign of stress from drought is a change in the colour of your lawn.
 - Your grass may turn yellowish-tan before it goes light brown.
- Also, watch for signs that your grass isn't holding as much water as it normally would.
 - You won't hear it when you walk on healthy green grass, but you may hear some "crunchiness" if you walk on excessively dry grass... If so, keep off of it for the time-being.
 - Healthy grass will spring back up after you walk on it but drought-stressed grass will show footprints after you step away.
 - To make sure your grass is still healthy, even during drought, look at the white area at the grass blade's base. If it remains off-white, the grass is still healthy. If it has begun to turn brown at the the base, your turf is in desperate need of water.
- Remember too, that as your grass is stressed and goes dormant, it becomes potentially more susceptible to disease and weeds.
- So... keep an eye out for opportunistic weeds, therefore, and spot-spray them with a selective herbicide.
 - Don't let them get a foot hold in your lawn.
 - You also don't want them stealing away whatever little moisture is available to your lawn.
 - That being said, if you're into the middle of a drought already, it may be too much for the temporarily dormant grass to handle if you suddenly broadcast spray the entire lawn with any herbicide...
 - So, if you have a sudden weed outbreak, preferably "spot-spray" those weeds "selectively" but try not to get it all over the surrounding grass if possible.

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- If it's hot and dry and your grass isn't growing as fast, cut back on your mowing frequency, only doing it when needed, remembering that it's okay to be a little taller in the mid-summer months for obvious reasons.
- If you need to mow it be sure you've raised your mowing height.
 - In fact, if your lawn is excessively dry, and it doesn't appear to be growing much, DO NOT mow it... Let it grow out a bit at its own slower pace.
 - Mowing the lawn too short or too often during times of drought can have devastating consequences.
 - Raise your mower's height by at least 1 inch to 3½ to 4 inches height or so (assuming it will even grow that much when it's so hot and dry).
 - Allow the lawn to shade itself a bit more and it will also help to keep the soil from drying out.
- If it is in need of a mow, mow only when the grass is cooler in the morning and is dry from any morning dew, to minimize stress on the grass blades.
- If you're walking on it or pushing a mower over it, (or worse yet using a heavy riding lawnmower on your lawn) it may in fact, break the cell structure of your grass blades which are desperate for water and they may not recover, so keep off your lawn while it may, indeed, be brittle and very dry.
 - Ideally, as already mentioned, stay off the lawn during this time... At the very least, reduce all foot traffic on it.
 - The grass blades may lack any elasticity to bounce back to normal if walked on or driven over with a riding lawn mower, when they are so dry and lacking internal moisture.
- Likewise, (though at other times of the year dethatching and aerating are proper things to do), DO NOT DO THESE during very hot summers or drought conditions as they will be far too stressful on your lawn.
 - Hold off on these so your lawn can retain all the moisture it can for awhile.
 - As mentioned above, too, these are heavy equipment and could potentially damage your grass just like a heavy riding lawnmower might during drought conditions, too.
 - The last thing anyone would want is very evident wheel tracks which would surely occur on your dried out grass from heavy equipment.
 - Depending how severe the damage might be, it may recover without any problem once conditions have improved or it might have severely damaged your lawn and need to be repaired.
- Water responsibly and prioritize your watering.
 - Water deeply but infrequently.
 - Whether drought conditions or normal conditions, there is a proper way to water as mentioned previously in this document.
- There is a right time and place for all things, and fertilizing and weed control is no exception.
 - However, as mentioned regarding weeds earlier, DO NOT apply any fertilizer or herbicide when your lawn is in the midst of a drought and exceedingly dry if not temporarily in a dormant state... That may be too hard on it for it to handle properly.
 - Indeed, fertilizer that isn't watered in thoroughly may actually burn your lawn, too, so if you're applying fertilizer, you MUST water it in to minimize any risk.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** As mentioned earlier, as nature's best defensive survival mechanism, grass slows or stops growing (becomes temporarily dormant) when subjected to extreme conditions. The fact is... supplemental nutrients will trigger your lawn to grow. But if your lawn is already significantly stressed due to lack of water, you don't want to add to that stress by triggering or obliging sudden new growth.

Indeed, your lawn may better survive drought conditions if allowed to remain in a non-growth/almost dormant state (assuming those drought conditions aren't for more than a few weeks).

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- If you're unsure as to whether your lawn has entered temporary dormancy or whether you should still give it more water, give us a call and we can have someone drop by to suggest what to do.
- The fact is, obliging grass to awake from its dormancy can actually waste stored resources.
- Dormant grass needs only ½ inch of water every 2 to 3 weeks to stay alive, even though that may not sound like very much at all.
- Accept this dormancy... nothing is going to appear to be growing when it's in the midst of a drought but it is indeed in survival mode for the time being, so don't force it to do something it may not be ready to do.
- Call us if you're unsure or have any questions.

PART 3 — After the Drought —

- Once temperatures and rain/moisture levels have returned to something more normal, it's now time to address any damage that may have happened.
- There's no magic here, just assess the lawn issues and get to work on getting your lawn back in tip-top shape.
 - If it was in decent shape before the drought occurred and you followed proper measures during the drought, your lawn should recover within a relatively short time. In fact, with a good rainfall or two, it may quickly return to its former green glory.
- Continue with the proper watering routine.
 - You may have increased your watering by 50% during the drought but you may get back to normal once-a-week watering now.
- You may now continue with your regimen of periodic fertilizer and weed control herbicide, too.
 - As you're aware, our spray program is a combination of liquid fertilizer and broadleaf weed contact herbicide.
 - Upon being sprayed let the herbicide component dry for a good 8 hours first so that it makes good contact with any existing weeds.
 - Then subsequently, water it in well for the sake of the fertilizer as you don't want to risk burning your lawn if it's still quite hot and dry. Watering will also help the herbicide translocate to other parts of the weeds for more effective control.
 - However, remember, too, that if you water too soon, you do not want to be washing off the herbicide from making good contact with any weeds, as that will negate its effectiveness, so do so after 8 and up to 24 hours or so.
- Whether you're utilizing our spray program or looking after it yourself, be sure to kill any weeds that may have taken root whilst your lawn may have been struggling.
 - Nip those in the bud, so to speak, before they spread their seeds or roots.
 - You do not want them to be hanging around making a home for themselves or else you may be dealing with them again next year, too.
- If you hadn't aerated your lawn back in the Spring, now once your lawn has recovered, you may do a Fall core aeration now in September or so.
 - This will help your lawn in preparation for winter, enabling it to get moisture, air and nutrients down to your grass roots more directly... and that's always a good thing.
- Given that it's likely toward the end of Summer and getting into Fall by this time, despite whether you experienced any serious drought conditions or not, your lawn has likely stopped growing as much.
 - So you may mow it less often.
 - However, when it's getting close to the end of the growing season, be sure to mow your lawn much shorter for its last mow, down to 2 to 2½ inches, in preparation for wintering under any snow banks, etc.

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So, given any severe hot temperatures and excessively dry conditions our lawns will struggle and be challenged and that's perfectly normal.

However, I trust the above information will have armed you with some good lawn care tips and common-sense. Any good lawn should recover. One that was struggling before the drought conditions happened might take a little longer to get back to some semblance of normal. But hopefully those drought conditions didn't last long nor were very severe. We'll hope the current trend of more drought-like conditions isn't going to increase or get worse in our region in the years to come. But even if it does, we can still do what we can to give us all those green lush lawns we love to enjoy.

We'll always be here for you, to do what we can to help you create and maintain a great lawn that you'll be proud of. If you have any other questions about your lawn or may require any lawn care services, don't hesitate to give us a call. All the best to you for this season!

Scott's Quality Lawn Care Team

***** SPECIAL NOTE *****

We love helping our clients have great-looking lawns! Of course, we always welcome your inquiries, but we also want to help educate you, too. So many of you have told us how much you appreciate the articles we make available to you.

If there are any questions you may have about your lawn or any challenges or problems you may occasionally encounter with your lawn, don't hesitate to give us a call. As with the above info article you've just read, we also have other highly beneficial lawn care articles, too...

Here are some we've created to support you with your lawn care efforts. They can help you identify any problems as well as offer some possible solutions for some of those occasional challenges lawns can encounter.

These info articles are not meant to be one-time definitive cures for whatever might ail your lawn. We all wish it was only that simple... But, there are no magic "spray this once and your lawn will be perfect thereafter" solutions... Unfortunately, those don't really exist, as much as we might all like them to. However, there are many things you can do to get your lawn in great shape and keep it that way. We encourage you to glean what you can from any of the following articles that may interest you. And for what you're not sure about, give us a call, let's talk about it, and we'll do what we can to help you.

You may reach us at 780-678-6450 if you'd like to receive any of these via email. It would be our pleasure to do our part to help you "make your lawn the envy of your neighbours"...

From Our "**PROACTIVE LAWN CARE**" Series Of Articles —
7 Steps To A Great Lawn
Caring For Our Lawn Over The Winter
Proactively Preparing Your Lawn For Drought Conditions

...See more on next page...

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From Our **“WHAT YOU’RE NOT TOLD”** Series Of Articles —
What You’re Not Told About All-Natural & Organic Lawn Care Alternatives
What You’re Not Told About Bats & Their Guano

From Our **“WHY?”** Series Of Articles —
Why Is My Grass So Thin?
Why Dead Spots On My Lawn?
Why Am I Getting Mushrooms In My Lawn?
Why Are The Pine Needles Killing My Grass?

From Our **“HOW TO GET RID OF...”** Series Of Articles —
How To Get Rid of Ants
How To Get Rid of Dew Worms
How To Get Rid of Fairy Rings
How To Get Rid of Quackgrass
How To Get Rid of Thistles

From Our **“DAMAGE BY DOGS & OTHER CRITTERS”** Series of Articles —
Fixing & Preventing Dog Spots
Damage Caused by Voles

From Our **“SEEDING LAWNS”** Series Of Articles —
Grass Seeding For New Lawns
Overseeding For Existing Lawns

From Our **“DIY”** Series Of Articles —
DIY_Alternate Ways To Remove Weeds In Gravel Areas

From Our **“COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES”** Series Of Articles —
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases (Compendium Of All Common Ones)
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_The Usual Causes
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Snow Mold
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Ascochyta Turf Leaf Blight
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Brown Patch
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Summer Patch
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Pythium Blight
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Red Thread
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Rust Diseases
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Powdery Mildew
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Dollar Spot
Common Lawn Fungal Diseases_Fairy Ring

INFORMATION ON OUR FIVE PRIMARY LAWN CARE SERVICES —

FERTILIZER & WEED CONTROL:
Our Fertilization & Weed Control Program
Possible Reasons For Still Having Weeds
Ten Reasons Our Program is Different

...See more on next page...

“Your Home Turf Advantage”

ENRICH SOIL ENHANCER:

Our Enrich Soil Enhancer Program

Different Soil Types Have Different pH Levels

WEEKLY MOWING:

How The Weekly Lawn Mowing Works

Our Quality Control Program

Ten Reasons We Are Different

CORE AERATION:

Why Aerate Your Lawn?

POWER RAKING:

Why Power-Rake Your Lawn?

“Your Home Turf Advantage”