

## A Pivotal Season for Lawn Maintenance

The summer season brings as many opportunities as challenges for homeowners, with lawn care and maintenance among them.

It's both a time to enjoy the outdoors and take pride in the overall look of your home. But it also requires extra work to keep your grass green through the heat and dryness. It's also the time of year that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long.

While some are well-versed in lawn care, others are experiencing the challenge for the first time. But each can benefit from these basic tips and procedures provided by the lawn-maintenance experts on the website LawnCare.org.

### MOWING

One common misconception about mowing is the instinct to keep grass as short as possible. It's a quick and time-saving maneuver, but you actually want to keep your grass taller while maintaining a neat appearance. Taller blades absorb more light and allow your lawn to provide more nutrients to the soil and retain moisture under their shade.



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### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Environmentally Friendly Pest Control

Pests come in a variety of forms: weeds, insects, animals, molds, and fungi to name a few. The need to control outdoor pests varies. Having some weeds in your garden or some grubs in your lawn may be tolerable. However, certain pests present serious threats in some years. Some pests can damage human and animal health, such as mosquitoes that carry diseases. Pesticides provide relief from many pests, but they are not the only solution to pest problems, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more about environmentally friendly pest control at the EPA's website at <https://bit.ly/2n4HELW>.

### CLIPPINGS

It's a mistake to treat grass clippings as waste. Instead, remove the bagging feature from your lawnmower if you have one and let the shredded grass freely distribute into the grass. The cuttings

will supply added nutrients and extra shade that will enhance the health of your lawn.

### FERTILIZATION

Fertilizing your lawn at the beginning and end of sum-

mer is crucial to year-long lawn health. In spring, fertilizers fill grass with nutrients that inhibit growth; at the onset of fall, winterizing fertilizers capture nutrients to protect grass from the harsh weather to come.

### SEEDING AND WEEDING

Most lawns have patches that don't grow properly or uniformly, so seeding is necessary to prompt growth. To avoid overworking the grass, seed just once and water on a routine schedule to encourage patient growth.

Removing the nuisance of weeds also requires patience and vigilance. Frequent inspection and weeding helps eliminate the ability of weeds to form roots and become even more harmful.

### WATERING

Watering, of course, is key to a healthy lawn. But over- or under-watering your lawn is a mistake. The experts recommend hydrating the expanse of your lawn with an inch of water on a weekly basis, whether that comes from rain or through sprinklers or a hose. Water in the early morning to ensure absorption into the soil before the drying effects of the sun. Take care to water with care — over-saturation can cause soil to become infertile.

### CLEAN AND GREEN

Keeping your lawn free of debris is necessary year-round, but especially at the end of summer. With the coming of fall, leaves and debris left on the ground can damage soil, creating an inviting environment for bugs and unsafe conditions that can delay growth in the spring.



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## HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

**Riparian rights:** The many rights of a person in, to, and over the banks, bed, shallows, shore and water of a stream or body of water upon which his land borders.  
SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

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