



*Bare spots waste water, encourage weeds to grow and can cause erosion. Re-seed bare spots thickly and get the grass started by watering every day until the new grass is established.*

**9. Water Early in the Day.**

Watering early in the morning will allow the leaf tissue to absorb water and hold onto it through the day. Water evaporates faster at mid-day, meaning you will lose more of it into the air. Watering in the evening encourages fungal diseases to thrive.

**10. Select Drought-resistant Grasses.**

Help your lawn be its healthiest by selecting grass varieties that are bred for drought-resistance and selected for best performance in the Hudson Valley.

Attach your business card or company information here

**Cornell Cooperative  
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Diagnostic Lab  
Hotline**

**Monday — Friday  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00**

- Plant Pathology
- Insect Identification
- Soil pH Testing
- Control Recommendations for Professionals and Homeowners
- Plant Care Information

It's no miracle . . . It's Turf Love.



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**10  
TIPS**

*Water Right, Mow Sharp:  
How to Have a  
Healthier Lawn with  
Less Work*



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County

# How to Mow and Water Your Lawn

Lawn care can be a mindless chore or a chance to do something good for your grass. These science-based methods will help your lawn look better, resist disease, withstand drought and grow thicker and healthier. Best of all, you will be spending less time working on your lawn! By watering only when the soil and turf need it, and by mowing with sharp blades and a higher cut, your lawn will be healthier . . . so you can do other things.

## 1. Mow Right.

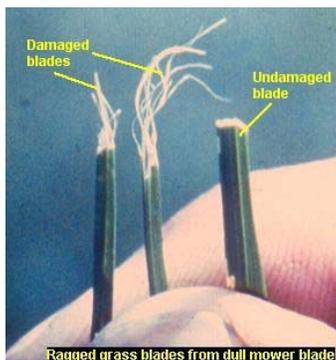
The higher the cut, the healthier the grass. Let the lawn grow to four and one-half inches long, then cut it to three inches.

## 2. Mow with the Weather.

Don't mow when the grass is wet, whether from rain or morning dew. In a drought, because grass is already struggling and needs as much leaf surface as possible to stay healthy, mow less frequently.

## 3. Sharpen your Mower Blades.

Dull mower blades rip and shred the grass tips. These broken tips are like an open sore, inviting pathogens in. Grass mowed with a sharp blade even looks better. Consider this: golf course pros sharpen their blades every day.



## 4. Use a Mulching Mower.

If you don't already have one, buy one. A mulching mower chops up the nitrogen-rich grass clippings into tiny pieces which you can leave on the lawn. These actually fertilize the lawn as they decompose, saving you time and money.

## 5. Clean your Mower Deck.

Remove the dried grass clippings that adhere to the underside of the mower deck. These may contain fungal diseases which can re-deposit themselves on your lawn the next time you mow.



## 6. How Much Water is Enough?

Health lawns need one inch (1") of water a week to stay fully green. You can buy a controller for your outdoor faucet to measure



*Each grass blade is a unique plant, but also a member of a group that thrives by sharing moisture, fertilizer, oxygen and light. Help them by mowing and watering efficiently and carefully.*

one inch of water. If you use a sprinkler, set a tuna can on the lawn and stop watering when the tuna can fills with water.

## 7. Water the Soil, not the Air.

An irrigation system that keeps water close to the surface of the grass is more efficient than standard sprinklers. It uses less water and delivers it to where it's needed.

## 8. Practice Turf Love.

In July and August, grass normally goes somewhat dormant (i.e., not actively growing) and can look brown. While grass will benefit from hot-summer watering, there is no need to water if we are in a drought.

