

# A Gardener's Tips for Summer Lawn Care

~Use a sharp mower blade that cuts grass cleanly, without tearing or shredding. Sharpen your lawn mower blade monthly since a dull blade can pull grass seedlings from the soil instead of cutting them.

~ Mowing height depends on type of grass. Lawns maintained at the correct height resist disease and weed infestation. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue should be kept between 2 to 3 inches in height. Mow frequently, removing no more than one third of the blade at each cutting.

~Avoid mowing when soil is wet, it can tear up the grass and soil and leave ruts. Changing your mowing pattern will aid in the prevention of ruts.

~ Lengthening the time between waterings combined with deep, heavy watering encourages root growth while reducing top growth in lawns. This increases the root-to-shoot ratio and produces plants that are more resistant to wilting when exposed to infrequent watering

~Grass clippings can be used as mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens if allowed to dry well before use. Fresh, damp, grass clippings will mat and may attract pests. Never use clippings from a lawn that has been treated with a herbicide.



## Propagation:

Cut 4 to 6 inches of tender new growth (45 degree angle) that has reached the semi-hardwood stage. Remove the foliage. Dip the cut end in a rooting hormone. Pot the cutting in a well-moistened medium and cover with a clear plastic bag (recycle the clear veggie bag from the grocery). This acts as a terrarium. Place the pot in the shade. Cuttings should root in four to six weeks. Great for your woody ornamentals such as azaleas, camellias, lilacs.