



NUTRI LAWN Inc.

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RP3 Newsletter Early Summer 2019

It looks like we might have finally shaken the winter-like weather that persisted well into this season. The late rains made for a particularly beautiful spring, and we here at NutriLawn are trying to enjoy as much of the temperate weather as we can before the onset of triple digit weather. We are in Round 3 of our turf fertilization and weed control program, which means we've already reached the halfway point if you can believe it. During this round we'll be giving your lawn an organic-based feeding, spot treating for troublesome weeds, and keeping an eye out for early summer issues that might affect the health of your lawn.

As we head into the summer season, a few things to keep in mind:

- **The Screwdriver Test!** If you see a distressed area in your lawn, before calling us, check with a screwdriver to see if the soil penetration is the same as in a greener area. If not, you likely have a dry spot due to an irrigation issue. The Screwdriver Test is also used to determine whether you are watering to the depth of the root zone. Check the penetration of the soil as you irrigate; you will be able to easily penetrate the soil as deep as the water has soaked into the soil.
- **How much should you water?** A good rule of thumb is to water until you can penetrate the soil 4" - 6" easily with your screwdriver. Watering to the depth of the root zone with each irrigation is incredibly important.
- **Water only in the early morning (3am - 7am).** Watering early is important for a number of reasons, including fungal prevention, more efficient water use, and ensuring that the water won't come on during or immediately following your NutriLawn turf application.
- **Keep your mow height high, especially in the summer months.** Taller grass reduces weed germination, promotes deeper lawn rooting, and provides the plant with a greater surface area for photosynthesis.
- **Monitor your lawn weekly - if you suspect a problem that can't be solved with irrigation, please call us and we'll help!**

Irrigation Tips Start watering! We're noticing a lot of drought stress around town as the weather has warmed up. How often varies from landscape to landscape, but most lawns should be watered 1-3 times a week this time of year, and more if there are drying North Winds. As temperatures raise, this will increase to every other day or more. You'll want to try to avoid watering every day as this creates the perfect conditions for fungal issues. Your lawn does best when it has a chance to dry out between irrigations.

We've also been noticing a lot of coverage issues, so check your sprinklers. They may need adjustments or repairs. If you aren't the DIY yourself type, consider reaching out to Chip Peyton Irrigation at (530) 521-2133 irrigation system needs.

Mowing Tips Proper mowing is one of the most important cultural controls a homeowner can practice to have a healthier, better looking lawn. During the growing season you would ideally mow your lawn weekly. The goal is to maintain a 3"-4" inch mow height, never removing more than a third of the blade at a time. Keep your blade well maintained and regularly sharpened as dull blades tear the grass rather cut, which leaves brown and ragged edges.

Don't let clippings sit on the lawn; either use a bag or rake them off. Normal clippings left on the lawn don't break down easily and can cause burn spots. The only exception would be if you were to use a mulch mower. Mulch mowers have blades designed to cut the grass clippings into smaller pieces, which can then be left on the lawn. These smaller pieces are broken down more easily, which has the additional benefit of returning nutrients directly to the soil rather than removing them via raking or bagging. This results in the lawn staying greener longer. However, even if you mulch mow, you may need to bag the clippings if you skip a mowing. An accumulation of too many clippings can still burn the lawn. For this reason, mulch mowing is recommended only for clients who can have a very regular mow schedule.

Mulch those beds! Mulching conserves water lost via evaporation from the soil surface and cools the roots of your shrubs and trees. Keep mulch away from the immediate root flare at the base of the trunk to allow the trunk and flare to dry between irrigations.

Preventative Grub Control We'll be initiating this service again in July. These relatively new turf pests typically cause damage to your lawns in the fall when the grubs are at full maturity. Controlling the grubs that late in their growth stage is difficult and costly, both for your wallet and your lawn. Minimizing their impact by treating the lawn with a special product in July when the grubs are small and vulnerable is key. If you are interested in having our July Preventative Grub Control service, please call or email the office.

As we enter Round 3 and move towards our busy season, everyone at NutriLawn starts to get the frazzles. By mid-summer we're truly working double-time to provide you with quality service and to usher your lawns through what can be a very difficult period of heat, disease, and pests, etc. You can help us out a lot by:

- A. Making sure your locked gates are unlocked** at the agreed upon times. It's difficult to re-schedule the back for another day (and stay in business!) We keep a lock box with many of our clients' keys for locked gates in our office. You may want to consider issuing us an access key or combination code so we can be sure to service your entire property while we are there.
- B. Some clients are "call 1st to confirm",** meaning we will seek your consent before servicing, and will not service without hearing from you. We need your response promptly so we can service your lawn while still in your area. We have 1300 clients' lawns to service each round and it's difficult to return to your area after we have moved on to other neighborhoods. To get the best service possible, please respond to our calls as soon as you can. We don't want your lawn to miss an application! If you no longer need us to confirm service with you, let us know.
- C. If it is more convenient, we can text instead of calling** when scheduling appointments. If you'd prefer that our technicians communicate with you via text, please contact the office to let us know.
- D. Vacations?** Call us prior and work out an arrangement so we can service/inspect your lawn. Tell your neighbors if they see your lawn going south to inform us (and please authorize treatment beforehand).

