

# TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN

## WATERING

- Water is critical during April and May because the roots are most active. The roots need at least 2" of water per week during this time to grow healthy and deep. Typically we do not receive enough rain during this time to facilitate healthy root growth. The lawn will look much better and require less attention during the hot summer months if you begin watering in April. (Sprinkler systems will NOT freeze if turned on in April.) Although it was perceived that we had a wet spring in 2009 we only received 1.1" of moisture in April and .23" in May, which is highly inadequate. The lawn will look green due to cooler temperatures but will require considerably more water when the temps heat up later in the season.
- Always water "deep and infrequent", deep so that the roots grow deep and healthy, infrequent to keep it hardy during heat stress periods.
- 2 times per week for up to 2" of water each time, use a bowl in the middle of the watering zone; time how long it takes to fill to 2" and that is how long you should water. If the water runs off then split that time and come back around.

## MOWING AND AERATING

- Mow on a regular basis (never take off more than 1/3 of the blade) the blade is where grass makes/stores food.
- Keep mower blades sharp, otherwise they "beat up" the grass. It's easy to tell if they need sharpened by looking at the blade of grass, if it's frayed, sharpen the mower blades.
- Mow at 3" (usually the highest level the mower will go), the longer the blades the more food it can produce.
- Aerate EVERY year at least once, this loosens soil to allow root growth and utilize water more efficiently. Most importantly it controls thatch where most diseases live. (Power raking removes all thatch and new grass, stressing the lawn.)

## CHEMICALS

- Fertilizer is very important, not only to keep the lawn green but to avoid many diseases. The proper levels at the proper time are critical. Professionals are generally not more expensive than purchasing the products and factoring in your own time. Also they are trained on when and how much to apply. A good professional will constantly adjust their mixture depending on weather and general seasonal conditions. It's also very hard to find a good weed control in most dry fertilizers, as weed controls must adhere to the leaf of the plant to be absorbed.

At Four Seasons Lawn Care, Inc. we are committed to providing the best possible service at a reasonable cost. Our goal is to help make your lawn the most beautiful in the neighborhood. Call us ANYTIME at 673-0129.