

GARDENING

The environmentally-friendly way to take care of your lawn

(NC)-A lush green lawn is a must-have for many Canadian homeowners. A common myth is the belief that pesticides and weed eater are necessary in order to achieve a healthy thick lawn. In fact, with the proper care and information, lawns will grow lush and thick which will make them better prepared to choke out weeds, prevent new weeds from sprouting and better equipped to handle disease, insects and drought. To help gardeners achieve a healthy lawn, here are some tips:

WATERING

- Water less often and for longer periods of time.
- Water in the morning when the sun is not as hot. This will prevent evaporation and ensure the moisture gets where it needs to go.
- Over watering can lead to poor growing conditions and diseases. You need just 2.5 cm of water per watering session to create a lush, healthy lawn. To keep track of how much you water, put a container on your lawn and check it after every watering session.

CUTTING THE LAWN

- Lawn mower blades should be set at 3 inches. Longer grass will develop deeper roots, keeps moisture in the soil longer and help to prevent weed growth.
- Lawn clippings help retain moisture and slowly release nutrients, so leave them on the lawn.
- It's best to mow the lawn later in the day so that it's dry. This will help achieve an even look and prevent clippings from clogging your lawn mower.
- Sharp mower blades will ensure the grass does not tear and will also prevent burning.

SEEDING

- Spread grass seeds in the Spring or Fall. The cool temperatures help the seeds to germinate.

FERTILIZING

- Fertilizer improves the thickness and colour of your lawn as well as its overall health. Like seeding, it's better to fertilize in the cooler temperatures.

AERATING

- Aerating your lawn improves the soil consistency because it improves the flow of water, nutrients and air to plant roots. If the ground of your garden is hard or water does not penetrate the ground, then it may be time to aerate.

SOIL

- Lawn or topdressing soils are the best soils for the lawn because of their consistency.

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