

# Summer Tips for your Turfgrass



*As we all know we are in water shortage and we all need to conserve this precious resource but the fact is that most people overwater their lawns. With the new Turf varieties having root systems going 3-4' in depth and new irrigation timers and systems that water only what the environment needs we should all be able to conserve water in our landscapes.*

Balancing our irrigation systems to match seasonal demands and performing a water audit conserves the most for all watering done in our gardens. This can be done by using historical "Evapotranspiration" rates. These historical averages are available on line from the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS). Performing a water audit, physically measuring the amount of water applied, removes all of the questions about how long to water. A well established turf should be only watered every third day and balanced to seasonal demand. If other help is needed we would be happy to lend a hand. Just call our office @ (408) 463-0500 or visit our website at [www.grassfarm.com](http://www.grassfarm.com) to find out how to do a water audit.

We like to water in the early mornings 3-5am, accessing better water pressures from city deliveries, generally avoiding higher winds or harsh heat will help decrease evaporation of the water

Mowing at 2-3", while removing less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the blade when mowing, will help the plant retain moisture (always use a sharp mower) and heal quicker after each mowing.

Organic or traditional, whichever you choose, fertilization is an important part of your lawns health. With the prices of oil

skyrocketing, so has fertilizer costs -- so make sure you are on an appropriate schedule for feeding your lawn. Here are some tips to help you out:

Grass Cycling is a great way to cut down on fertilizer cost. Mow your lawn every 7 days in the summer (no more than 1/3 of the blade) and leave the clippings on the lawn this will recycle the nutrients without much work.

Fertilize by the calendar. Set up your fertilizer dates on the calendar at the beginning of the year every 45 to 90 days or so. Spring and Fall being the best times for Cool season grasses.

Use a balanced fertilizer like Turf Royal 21-7-14. If fertilizing in the summer with temps over 90 degrees make sure to use a Slow Release so you don't burn your lawn.

## Environmental Health Benefits From Your Lawn

A 2500 sq.ft of lawn converts enough carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to provide enough oxygen for a family of four daily.

The front lawns of eight houses have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning; the average home's air conditioner has only a three or four ton capacity and takes lots of electricity to power it.

On a typical hot summer day *Natural Turf* is approximately 78 to 88 degrees F. where *Concrete* or *Artificial Turf* is about 117 – 157 degrees F.

The psychologically calming effect has long been noted for lawns and their inherent ability to create tranquility. These are some of the reasons we have turf around our Hospitals and business parks. With our frantic lifestyles, who couldn't use a little of that! Tranquility Now!

## Fire protection and Erosion control

Give your home thirty feet of protection! With the recent Loma Prieta fire and last year's Henry Coe fire, we would all do better, save a lifetime of work and lower our insurance costs by giving the heroes, our fire departments, a little help by giving them a defensible area around our homes. Additionally a healthy, sodded lawn absorbs rainfall six times more effectively than a wheat field and four times better than a hay field.

One acre of grass produces more oxygen per year than one acre of rainforest. **Wow!**

All this from one little plant that requires so little from us! **Now that's a great return for your Buck!**

*Information provided by Garden Accents. They are located at 11155 Lena Avenue in Gilroy. Open Monday thru Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and on Sundays from 8 am to 4 pm. Take a virtual tour of their lovely facility at [garden-accents.net](http://garden-accents.net).*

