



LAWN TIPS

Aerate your lawn, then overseed. Aerate in the spring or fall, then overseed with a lawn mix designed for Intermountain West conditions. Talk to a knowledgeable nursery professional or your USU County Extension agent for recommendations.

Let your grass grow longer and train your roots to grow deeper. Let your grass grow longer (2-3"). Longer turf means less watering and mowing and improved rooting depth and water-use efficiency.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a nutrient source. Grass clippings are a source of nitrogen to your lawn. Soil moisture will also be improved when clippings are returned.

Fertilize in late fall with a "slow release" fertilizer, but only enough to keep plants healthy and green. Over-fertilizing is unhealthy for your lawn and also means it grows faster--increasing the time you spend mowing. Consider having your soil tested through your USU County Extension office to see what nutrients your lawn really needs.

LANDSCAPE TIPS

Plan your landscape. Consider how you will use your yard. A landscape with trees, bushes, flowers, lawn, and hardscaping can be more water and energy efficient, which will save you money!

Improve your soil. Organic material will correct many soil problems and supply needed nutrients for your plants.

Plant low water-use and drought-resistant trees and plants. Ask your local nursery professional about Utah-friendly landscape materials, such as low water-use plants, bushes, trees, and lawns.

Use lawn as an element of the landscape, not just the default. Plan for recreation, erosion control, and continuity between other plantings. As much as possible, water lawn separately from other plants.

Irrigate efficiently and hydrozone. Consider the water needs of plants as you develop your landscape and irrigation plans. Arrange plants with similar water needs into zones.

Use mulch around trees and plants. A layer of mulch (3-4 inches) cools flower beds, inhibits weeds, and slows the evaporation of moisture.

Plan for routine maintenance. Low- or no-water does not mean "no care." Maintenance needs for a well-planned water-wise landscape should decrease over time as plants become established.

SPRINKLER TIPS

Tune up your sprinklers regularly. Check your system monthly and make the necessary adjustments (ex. repair broken, clogged, or misaligned heads).

Invest in a rain switch or moisture sensor. A rain switch will automatically shut off watering during rain storms, while a moisture sensor "senses" when the soil has dried out and turns on irrigation automatically.

Avoid puddling and runoff. This is evidence of overwatering. Typically, excess water will evaporate before being absorbed into saturated soil.

Periodically adjust your automatic timer to coincide with weather changes. Don't set it once and then leave it for the entire watering season. Change your watering schedule and adjust for monthly weather changes.

Use plant-appropriate sprinklers. Turf, trees, flowers, and shrubs do best with different irrigation methods.

Water things that grow, like grass, plants, and trees. Adjust your sprinklers so that you don't water your driveway, sidewalk, and fences. They won't grow--but your maintenance costs will!

WATERING TIPS

Water right--not during the heat of the day. Watering when it's cooler allows water to get to the root zone where it is needed (don't water between 10 am and 6 pm).

Water it deep. Deep soak your lawn's root zone where water won't evaporate quickly and where it will do the most good. By using a soil probe or screwdriver, you can tell if your soil is dry or moist and if you need to water.

Don't overwater. Excess watering means that fertilizers and pesticides move past the root zone and into groundwater, negatively impacting water quality and increasing the burden to wastewater treatment plants.

Avoid watering on windy days and when it rains. If it is windy, wait a day. If you have an early morning canyon breeze, water at another time of day. Take advantage of the rain when it falls by not irrigating.