

Summer Watering Guidelines

North Spokane, Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake, Post Falls:

These areas have sandy soil or rocky river bed soil. If you live in one of these areas, you should water frequently but not too deeply. Deep watering is generally a waste of water and money in these soil types, you should do shorter but more frequent watering sessions.

Recommended Watering based on Temperature:

- 65°- 78°: water 3-4 times a week
- 78°- 86°: water 4-6 times a week
- 86° and above: water 5-7 times a week
- When consistently in the 90°s and above, water every morning, & add additional night sessions a few times a week.

Coeur D'Alene, Hayden Lake, the South Hill:

These areas have loamy soils, which contain varying degrees of clay. For this type of soil, deep watering is best. You should water for longer sessions (getting at least ½ to 1 inch of water on the lawn each session), but you can do them less frequently.

Recommended Watering based on Temperature:

- 65°- 78°: water 2-3 times a week
- 78°- 86°: water 3-4 times a week
- 86° and above: water 4-7 times a week
- When consistently in the 90°s and above, it may be necessary to add in 1-2 additional nighttime watering sessions.

Summer Mowing Guidelines:

During the summer, you should mow at a height of 2½ to 3 in.

It is important to mow at a higher height during the summer; it helps to reduce heat and drought stress on your lawn. Keeping your grass longer provides more shade to the soil and protection from the sun, which helps your lawn retain moisture and decreases the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Make sure you are using sharp mower blades. Dull mower blades tear grass rather than cutting it. Not only does this not look great, it also stresses your grass, and makes it more prone to insect and disease damage, as well as drought stress.

Tips for Watering Effectively:

- Water in the cool hours of the morning to mitigate evaporation.
- Mow at a height of 2½ to 3 inches.
- Make sure you are getting full water coverage on your lawn without overshoot. If you have a sprinkler system, you will need to adjust your sprinkler heads regularly throughout the year. If you use a hose-end sprinkler, rather than trying to water your whole lawn on full pressure, use a lower pressure and water in stages.
- Check your lawn regularly. If it looks or feels dry, increase the amount of watering (either by adding time to your sessions or an additional session or two, depending on your soil type.)
- An annual aeration results in better water retention for your lawn.