

TURF TIDBITS



Your Turf Management Professionals

Green 4 Ever, Inc.
7407 E Arrowhead Pkwy
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
(605) 334-7399

customerservice@green4everinc.com
www.green4everinc.com

Got a friend or family member that could use our help? Send 'em our way & get rewarded with a \$10 referral credit off of your Fall app, just like Kelly did! 💰👍



"Always timely and professional. Staff is friendly and helpful when needed. I have referred friends/neighbors for services."

- Kelly P. (Green4Ever Customer)



When Mother Nature decides to turn off the spicket, we need to start supplementing our watering. But don't water every other day.

Grass in our area needs 1" per week to stay green and healthy.

We suggest **watering ½ inch of water twice per week in the early morning hours.** This is much more beneficial to the lawn than watering every other day. If you're investing in the water, you might as well have it be put to the best use possible. You may even find out that you could be saving money or conserving water. **Do you know how much water is being applied during a cycle? Are all the heads working properly? Do you have a rain-out switch?**

Just remember that deeper, infrequent waterings are BEST:

TWO TIMES PER WEEK, ½ INCH EACH TIME.

Now that we've talked about the rain levels let's talk THE HEAT levels during the summer



The grasses in our area are what are considered "cool season" grasses. Meaning, they perform their best during the coolest months of the year - SPRING and FALL. During times where the temperature &/or the heat indexes are above 75 degrees, (SUMMER TIME), our grasses start to stress out. If ample rainfall (article above) or supplemental watering doesn't occur, the lawn becomes more stressed, which makes it susceptible to weeds, insects, and fungus (article below). We visited many lawns this summer, where lawns were not only dry but also very heat stressed; where there were more weeds and brown spots. You've probably already noticed that you're not mowing as often, compared to in the spring and fall. It's all because of the **heat**.

Help your lawn by watering 2x per week, ½ inch of water each time, if natural rainfall does not occur.

Summer Brown Spots Explained

Difference between fungus, disease, grubs, and dormancy

In times of stress, your turf may be more susceptible to **BROWN SPOTS**. Trying to determine what kind of brown spot you have can be challenging. Let the experts know you have trouble on the horizon, and we can come in to help turn things around! To keep the lawn healthy and out of this “stress zone” we recommend watering in the early morning hours 2 times per week, ½ inch of water each time. This along with spring raking and fall aeration will drastically reduce your risk factors.

FUNGUS: There are fungicides on the market claiming they can help you get rid of lawn fungus. But really, they help mask symptoms until the weather straightens out. It actually takes preventative measures such as aerating, watering in the morning hours rather than evening, raking, and fertilizing consistently to help prevent these funguses from returning.

Fungicides can also come with a price because they usually require multiple treatments. **Dollar Spot and Summer Patch, are very common in our area and especially during hot, humid weather.** Dollar spot usually perks up after fertilizing with some nitrogen & then watering. Summer patch usually appears when something else is going on; too thick of a thatch layer, a compacted, high foot-traffic area, or under drought stress.

GRUBS: Grubs occur naturally in the soil. If you look hard enough, you’ll probably find grubs in your lawn, even if you don’t see any damage. It’s having 2-3 or more grubs in a square foot section that determines an infestation. **You can identify grubs by easily lifting up large sections of turf like a toupee or carpet and the white grub worms will be found.** Where grubs have been identified, we can apply an insecticide to kill them. Call us for a quote! Then you may have to over-seed or re-sod any areas that turned brown or bare. **If you would like to prevent grubs,** call us and we can apply an insecticide that’ll prevent the damaging effects of grubs and other turf inhabiting pests by killing them at their egg stage **BEFORE** the damage occurs.

DORMANCY- different stages of dormancy:

Stage 1: You’ll see that a well-maintained yard will have nice, dark green color, and good thickness. Continue fertilizing and then watering 2x per week, ½ inch each time to maintain this look.

Stage 2: This lawn is not being watered so as it is entering dormancy, it starts to lose its vigor and color. If you start to water 2x per week, ½ inch each time, it’ll only take 7-14 days for it to perk back up.

Stage 3: A completely dormant lawn is going to take quite a bit of water and a few weeks to get it back to Stage 1 condition.

Fungus #1: Dollar Spot:



Fungus #2: Summer Patch:



Grubs:



Dormancy:



Going dormant is the grass’s natural defense against drought conditions & high temperatures. If you’ve decided to let the lawn go dormant during the summer, just remember that you might be opening the lawn up to fungus, insect, or weed problems.

SUMMER TO-DO LIST

LAWN:

- Start **watering** 2x per week, ½ inch each time to keep your lawn nice and green & healthy through the summer
- **Raise** your mower height to 3"
- Don't bag the clippings, **mulch them** through the summer months
- Sign up for a **fall aeration or sidewalk edging**. Call today for a quote.
- Be aware of "**Mower Blight**". A condition that causes cuts, scratches, and damage to tree trunks when you get too close and make contact with the mower or trimmer. This makes the tree susceptible to insects, fungus, and overall decline. Make a 3' diameter circle around the base of the tree and cover with wood mulch.

GARDEN:

- Continue **dead-heading** flowering perennials and shrubs for continued blooms OR stop dead-heading if you want to collect seed pods from them.
- **Don't cut the leaves** of your spring flowering bulbs until all the growth has died. Tulip and daffodil foliage may already be all brown and that's ok to clean that up, but iris foliage will last much of the season and should only have their flower stalks cut back
- **Water annuals** and annual pots every day or every other day and fertilize them about every 10-14 days with a bloom-boosting fertilizer.
- Keep weeds, insects, and diseases out of the vegetable garden by **controlling pests** as soon as they are spotted.

HOME:

- Weekly, **turn houseplants** ¼ turn for even growth.
- **Turn your compost pile** and sprinkle with water if it's drying out
- Keep **birdbaths and water features refreshed** to prevent mold and mosquitos and to supply our flying friends with water during the heat of the summer.

CICADA KILLER WASPS



These larger than normal wasps aren't as dangerous as they appear. As the name implies Cicada killer wasps hunt cicadas, the loud, buzzing insects we hear in the summer. Males do not even have stingers, but the female wasps do. She really only uses her stinger to sting the cicada, paralyze it, and drag it down to her under-ground nest to feed the family. Even though the females have stingers, most do not sting humans unless handled. Males, to protect their home, will hover & fly really close to you if you're getting too close to their nest. Their size is usually enough to make people start running, though!

In most cases, control of the wasps is not necessary due to their non-aggressive nature. However, if a nest is in a high-traffic area, removal may be needed. Sprinkle an insecticide containing carbaryl or permethrin into the entrance hole. You will find the quarter-sized entrance holes in areas of the lawn that are thin. It's easy for the wasps to burrow when there's not a lot of vegetation to chew through. So, another form of control is to over-seed the thin spots to thicken things up, thus making it harder for them to take up residency.

Sioux Falls water restrictions clarified:

The city currently has stage 1 water restrictions in place. This means a couple of things:

- 1) between 12-5pm you cannot water
- 2) if the last digit of your house is odd, then you can water on odd days. Same goes for even numbered houses.

Because of this, many people set up their sprinkler systems to water every other day for 10-15 mins. This usually causes more harm than good, though because that's not enough time for the water to really penetrate through to the roots where it's needed.

Just because the city allows us to water every other day, doesn't mean that's what's best

Rather, what IS recommended is to water only 2x per week, ½ inch each time. Your grass will say Thank You!

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"Green 4 Ever has provided great lawn care for our home. They are consistent in their applications, timely in their notifications and are reliable." -- Abbie D (Green4Ever customer)

