



# GOOD ADVICE FROM YOUR LAWN

“Your children do cartwheels when they see me, and I am always here to cushion their fall. I’m your lawn. Soft and welcoming – and never high-maintenance. With a little care, I’ll be here strong and steady. Waiting for you to come out and play.”

*Love, Your Lawn*

## *Well-fed lawns are strong lawns*

- ☀ Feeding 3-4 times a year builds a strong lawn that is ready to stand up to weeds, heat, drought and insects.
- ☀ Some fertilizers are made for lawns, some aren’t. Pick a fertilizer made for lawns. All-purpose fertilizers give grass more phosphorus than it needs.
- ☀ Not sure what to do? Use the bag as your guide. Label directions will give you the information you need so that you won’t over-feed and waste fertilizer.

## *Taller is better*

- ☀ You mow your lawn anyway, so keep its best interest in mind. Set your mower to the highest setting to build deep roots that reach water and nutrients in the soil better. Plus, lawns mowed high look more lush and green.
- ☀ Mow and feed your lawn at the same time by leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Clippings will break down and recycle nutrients back in to the soil.

## *Be water’s friend*

- ☀ If you choose to water beyond what Mother Nature provides, wait until your lawn dulls in color or begins to wilt.
- ☀ When fertilizer lands on driveways or sidewalks, sweep it back on to the lawn to keep nutrients where the grass will use it – and out of waterways.
- ☀ Sometimes when its hot and dry, your lawn will go dormant and turn brown. Don’t worry. It will bounce back once it starts to rain again, especially if you’ve fed it well.

## *Weeds and insects don’t have to bug you*

- ☀ If you have a few small problems, use a spot treatment. But when you have a lot of weeds or insects throughout your yard, use a broadcast application on the entire lawn. Choose a product that says it’s for lawns on the label.



# WATER TIPS FROM YOUR LAWN



“ I’m nature’s friend. Some might say I’m a bit over-protective. But I can’t help it. She’s too important. I don’t mind protecting and defending her. But I can’t do it alone. Help me care for her water. And to say thanks, I promise to keep your water clean and help you use less of it each year. ”

*Love, Your Lawn*

## *With good care, you’ll water less*

- ☀ Feeding 3-4 times a year, builds roots that can reach water in the soil better. Stronger, deeper roots mean you’ll have to water less.
- ☀ Mow your lawn at the highest setting. Taller grass promotes deeper roots and holds water in the soil better.

## *Timing is everything*

- ☀ If you choose to water beyond what Mother Nature provides, wait until your lawn dulls in color or begins to wilt.
- ☀ Watering in the morning or the coolest part of the day reduces water loss from evaporation. When it’s windy, turn the hose off so water doesn’t blow off of the lawn.

## *Save water and save money*

- ☀ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- ☀ Tune up your irrigation system. Check for broken, crooked, or clogged nozzles and repair or replace them.

## *Dormant lawns are okay too*

- ☀ Sometimes when it’s hot and dry, your lawn will go dormant and turn brown. Don’t worry. It will bounce back once it starts to rain again, especially if you’ve fed it well. If you do choose to water, be aware of and follow local watering restrictions.

## *Give your lawn some air*

- ☀ Sometimes soil becomes dense and compact. Aerate your lawn so that water moves deeper into the soil where grass can use it, instead of running off into storm drains.



# AN INVITATION FROM YOUR LAWN



“ I love when you play tag or some silly game, and I tickle the bottoms of your feet as you run over me. I feel good when I keep your children cool and safe. So let me cushion your falls and give your pet room to play. And when you need some quiet, or a place to get away, I'll be right outside your door. ”

*Love, Your Lawn*

## *Backyard Picnic:*

- ☀ Picnics in the park are fun, but you can get the same experience without driving anywhere! Make some snacks with your family, grab a blanket, and head out to the backyard.

## *Stargazing:*

- ☀ Let your kids stay up later than usual on a clear summer evening. Bring a blanket, lie on your backs, and search for the Big Dipper. Add to the fun with an astronomy book, a flashlight, and a light snack.

## *Listen Up:*

- ☀ Lie in the grass beside your child, or back-to-back, and close your eyes. Concentrate on listening to all the sounds around you. Can you hear bees buzzing? Wind blowing? Are there any soft sounds? High sounds? Take turns sharing which sounds you can hear.

## *Neighborhood Art Fair:*

- ☀ Invite neighborhood families to bring their artwork to an afternoon show in your backyard. Use a clothesline and pin the artwork up with clothespins. Serve snacks and step back to enjoy the talent of the young artists in your neighborhood.

## *Nature Hunt:*

- ☀ Give each player a bag and a list of natural objects (a bird's feather, a leaf, a smooth rock, a pine cone, a wildflower, etc.) to collect. If more than one child is playing, make different lists. Challenge the players to find all the objects on their list in a set amount of time.

## *Backyard Bowling:*

- ☀ Find household items that will tumble over easily, such as empty cereal boxes, or empty soda cans, and line them in a row like bowling pins. Then, using a small ball, have children roll the ball. They score a point for each “pin” they knock down.

