

DREAM  
**GREENER**



# Greener Grounds Guide



# Seven Must-Do Tips for a Healthier, Greener Lawn

Your lawn and landscaping say a lot about the value and care of your home. A professional, tended, well-maintained property can be used to showcase your home's curb appeal and provides an investment both as a homeowner and a neighbor.

Year-round, Dream Greener provides full-service lawn and landscaping care and maintenance for Pittsburgh and South Hills homeowners and business owners. We know how much time and effort is spent keeping yards beautiful and green.

We'd like to provide our *Top Seven Tips for Great Lawn Care*.



# Tip 1: Mulching & Edging

Mulching adds to your property's curb appeal, replenishes the minerals in the soil, and maintains and retains the correct moisture for your plantings (especially during the summer). Edging keeps your mulch and lawn separated, provides a clean look, and ensures that mulch isn't spilling out onto your lawn.



## Tip 2: Spring Cleanups

Cold, moisture, and snow affect the look and health of your lawn. So does debris caused by falling twigs and tree branches during snow or wind storms. Plus, stray leaves from the fall can harm your plants and diminish curb appeal. A spring clean-up will make your property look clean and well-tended even before the growing season begins.



# Tip 3: Custom Fertilization

Fertilizer should be applied year round. Spring fertilization ensures that your lawn is getting the nutrients it needs following the winter and also repairs grass and plants affected by snow mold and road salt. Summer fertilization is specially blended to work with hot summer conditions. In the fall and early winter, your lawn should be fertilized to prepare your grass for a cold and snowy winter. With custom-blended fertilizer, your lawn will look its best throughout the year.



# Tip 4: Core Aeration & Overseeding

In the fall, it's important to ensure that your grass roots are healthy and growing, and that your grass has enough nutrients to withstand through a long – and possibly very cold – winter.

Core aeration's many benefits include:

- Loosening the soil
- Enhancing the root system
- Allowing seeds to take root
- Thinning out the thatch.

Once aeration is completed, overseeding to replenish your lawn with new grass seed can begin.



# Tip 5: Weed & Insect Control

Using pre-emergent weed, crabgrass, and insect control will prevent unsightly annoyances so common in the summer.



# Tip 6: Repairs & Treatments

It is important to repair the turf problems that are caused by disease, a hot dry summer, or insect damage. The first step you can take is to fertilize and lime the grass after you aerate to protect the roots of the grass and to infuse the turf and soil with nutrients.



# Tip 7: Scheduled Maintenance & Year Round Care

With all-season care, you'll enjoy a well-maintained lawn no matter what time of year it is. Using a lawn-service company year round means that you'll be able to rely on predictable service that will enhance your home or businesses' curb appeal.

Dream Greener's maintenance packages are based on your property's particular needs, from soil requirements, to needed nutrients, to the position of the sun on your plantings. Our reliable, scheduled, multi-season service makes it easy to maintain a healthy, green lawn. Let us do the work while you enjoy the benefits of a beautiful, well-maintained property.



# New Landscape Watering Care

When it comes to watering, there are no hard or fast rules. It's a judgment call that depends on the type of plant, the soil, the weather, the time of year and many other variables.

- For newly installed landscapes, shrubs, plants you want to water by laying the end of a hose near the base of the plant and turning on the water to a steady trickle. Leave the hose in place for about 12 to 20 minutes (depending on how big the plant/shrub is) to saturate the root zone.
- Check the soil to see if it's time to water. For a more thorough investigation, push a spade into the soil near your plant and pull it back to see how the soil looks. If it feels moist to a depth of 6 to 12 inches, you're in good shape. If it's bone dry, water!
- Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the hot sun will evaporate much of the water before it can get to thirsty plants.
- Slower watering is usually more effective.
- Water only when needed. Automatic timers are especially useful; just make sure to watch the weather, and reduce frequency when rainfall is abundant. Too much water can be just as damaging to plants as too little.



# The Best Way to Water

Proper watering is not that hard. But it is very important, especially when the weather is hot and dry. It basically requires watching the weather, paying attention to your plants, checking the moisture in the soil and common sense.

- The key is to ensure that water gets to the root zone. **Focus on the root zone.** Remember that it's the roots that need access to water, not the leaves. Wetting the foliage is a waste of water and can promote the spread of disease.
- **Water deeply and thoroughly.** Lawns and annuals concentrate their roots in the top 6" of soil; for perennials, shrubs and trees, it's the top 12". In heavy soil, it may take hours for water to percolate down 6-12". Use your finger or a shovel to check the progress.
- **Use the right tool.** For efficient watering at the root zone, use a soaker hose, lightweight hoses, or an even more precise drip irrigation system.

**Yes**, it is possible to over-water plants, and over-watering can be just as bad as or worse than under-watering. Other than container plants, if you water properly you will not need to – and should not – water every day



# Watering New Grass Seed

Normally a lawn should be watered deeply but infrequently- Not enough water will kill the sprout - Too much water can leave less than ideal results.

- Set automatic timers for about 20 to 25 minutes (*ideally in the morning and mid-day*)
- Keep the top 2 inches of soil moist. The treated area has to be **MOIST, but NOT SOGGY!!!**
- Twice daily watering is essential until the new grass is up, then after one week reduce to once a day



# Watering New Grass Seed, Continued

## Things to Avoid While Watering

- Over watering results in puddles (the seed will drown!)
- Don't over water areas that are shaded (sunny areas need more water)
- If you see moss or algae: reduce the frequency of watering and length of time
- Under watering new grass seed

## When It Is Ready to Be Mowed

- Make sure your newly seeded area(s) are about 3 and 3 1/2 inches long before mowing
- Have your mower blade sharpened!!
- Set your mower at 3 inches high
- Mulch the grass clippings - this will help thicken the lawn



# Grounds Maintenance Service Schedule

## WINTER



### JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Winter Pruning	Corrective Ornamental Tree Dormant Pruning	January-February
Snow & Ice Management	Residential & Light Commercial	January-March
Dead Tree and Shrub Removal	Under 15ft.	January-March
Vegetation Management	Brush/Deadwood (weather permitting)	January-March

## SPRING



### MARCH - APRIL - MAY

Premium Spring Clean-Up	Leaf & Debris Removal	Early March-May
Bed Weeding Begins	Apply Pre-Emergent/Hand Weed	Early March
Turf Care	Round 1, 2, 3	Early March-May
Mowing Begins	35 Visits	Mid-March
Pruning & Trimming	Round 1	Late March - May
Spring Mulch	Hand Edging & Mulch	Late March - May
Spring-Summer Annuals	Compost & Planting	May
Lawn Health & Landscaping	Inspection/Service	March-May

## SUMMER



### JUNE - JULY - AUGUST

Pruning & Trimming	Round 2	June-July
Bed Weeding	Hand Weed/Spray Beds	June-July
Fresh Edge	Cut A New Defined Bed Edge	June-July
Turf Care	Round 4	June-August
Mowing	Weekly Set High	June-August
Lawn Health & Landscaping	Inspection/Service	June-August

## FALL



### SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Turf Care	Aeration & Overseed	September-October
Bed Weeding	Hand Weed/Spray Beds	September-October
Pruning & Trimming	Round 3	June-July
Mowing	Weekly	September-November
Turf Care	Round 5-6	September-December
Lawn Health & Landscaping	Inspection/Service	October-November
Fall Clean-Ups	Leaf Removal	October-December
Lime	Soil Amendment	November-December
All Grounds Maintenance Services Completed	Weather Permitting	Around December 15