



Environmentally Sound Practices for



Rich Soils in Shade

(Rich soils more common in 1960's or older developments)

	Turfgrassgrass Quality Expectations.....		
		Minimal	Average	High
Water	During first growing season after seeding or sodding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ½ inch per week of rain or water ▪ Turfgrass does not need to be dark green to be healthy. If your footsteps show or if it turns a blue-gray color this indicates time to water ▪ During first growing season after seeding or sodding 		X
Conserve Water	No action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calibrate irrigation system ▪ Water during coolest part of day. Early morning is best ▪ Water with large drops, close to the ground ▪ Install rain sensor & soil moisture sensor on irrigation systems ▪ Adjust sprinklers. Do not allow water to land on hard surfaces. ▪ Follow City watering bans 		X
Mower Height3+Inches with sharp blade.....			X
ClippingsLeave on lawn*, sweep off street.....			X
Fall Leaves	Mow. If turfgrass is not visible through the leaf cover then rake prior to mowing.			X
Core Aerate	None	None or every few years. If it is difficult to push a screwdriver into dry ground core aeration can help. 20 – 40 holes per sq/ft*. Not when ground is dry, grass is stressed or temps are hot or predicted hot within a week.		X
Seed Type	Shady mix of perennial fine fescues & shade tolerant bluegrasses			X
Seeding Time	Best time mid-August – mid September, next best time early spring. Avoid seeding mid May - July			X
Traffic ToleranceLow.....			X
Weed Control	None. Where turfgrass is very thin, mix in other shade loving plants* to help prevent soil erosion. Mow to make weeds less obvious.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow pesticide labels; they are the law. ▪ Minimal, spot treatment if any. Use of herbicides can cause bare spots that often fill in with more weeds due to the poor conditions for growing turf ▪ For bare spots, reseeding with a shady lawn mix may be possible in lighter shade. For heavier shade, consider mulches or adding shade loving plants* for a better adapted & often more dense ground cover. Turfgrass is poorly adapted to dense shade ▪ Avoid use of weed/feed mixes as the needs & timing for weed control may be different from that of supplying nutrients. This will also help avoid herbicide injury to other nearby desirable plants ▪ Minimize broadleaf herbicide use due to the possibility of injury to trees, shrubs & other desirable broadleaf plants ▪ Option: Mow to make weeds less obvious. 		X

X – Not Practical

* - for more information see DETAIL PAGE



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Fertilizer tips	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Granular: Use drop spreader by edges. Fill spreader on dry hard surface, spills can be swept up. ▪ Liquid: fill on grassy area. Dilute spills on grass with a thorough watering. ▪ Apply in cross pattern, ½ ↑ direction, ½ → direction 		X
Correct fertilizerTake soil test, follow recommendations for fertilizer			
Next best fertilizer	1/2 – 1 pound N per 1000 sq/ft each year around Labor Day (35-50% of the N slow release*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 pound Nitrogen (N) per 1000 sq/ft once a year around Labor Day (35-50% of the N should be slow release) ▪ Optional second treatment : 1 pound N per 1000 sq/ft near Halloween (All quick release, watered in ¼ - ½ inch water) ▪ Law requires 0% phosphorous (P)* ▪ Typically a N-P-K ration of 4-0-2 or 4-0-3 is ok for MN 		X
Trees	No action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaf trees: Often best recommendations for tree health conflicts with best recommendations for turfgrass health. ▪ For turfgrass health: Thin branches to gain more filtered sunlight, remove lower branches to promote air circulation near ground & ease mowing. Consider mulching under tree canopy to keep mowers away from trunk & exposed roots. ▪ Needle trees: Do not remove lower branches. Mow around tree. Consider mulching under tree branches. 		X