



Environmentally Sound Practices for Compacted Soils in Sun



(Compacted soils are the most common type in metro areas)

	Turfgrass Quality Expectations.....		
		Minimal	Average	High
Water	During 1 st growing season after seeding or sodding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ½ - ¾ inch of water or rain per week for average summer weather. ▪ 1 inch per week for extreme or long hot and/or dry conditions. ▪ During first growing season after seeding or sodding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 inch of water or rain per week. Can be less where lawns contain more than 50% fine fescue. ▪ During first growing season after seeding or sodding 	
Conserve Water	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calibrate irrigation systems ▪ Water slowly or at shorter intervals to aid water infiltration into soil. These soils are more prone to water runoff that can also carry pollutants. ▪ Adjust sprinkler. Do not let any water land on hard surfaces. ▪ Grass does not need to be the dark green to be healthy. If your footsteps show or if grass turns a blue-gray color this indicates time to water the grass. 		
Mower Height	3 inches	3 inches most of year with sharp blade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 - 2.5 inches spring & fall. ▪ 3 inches better during hot and/or dry summer conditions. Use sharp blade. 	
ClippingsLeave on lawn, sweep off street.....			
Fall LeavesMow. If dense cover (more than 50% leaves) then rake & compost.....			
Core Aerate	None or every few years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once near Labor Day. More often will help reduce compaction & will improve soil permeability. ▪ 20 – 40 holes per sq/ft* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 times per year. Around April & Labor Day for 2 or 3 seasons then reassess. ▪ April aeration requires broadcast of pre-emergent herbicide application with spring fertilizer application. ▪ 20 – 40 holes per sq/ft* 	
Seed TypeSunny mix of perennial fine fescues & bluegrasses			
Seeding Time	Best time mid-August – mid September, next best time early spring. Avoid seeding mid May - July			
Traffic ToleranceMedium.....			



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Weed control	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow pesticide labels they are the law. ▪ Avoid use of weed/feed mixes, needs & timing for weed control may be different from that of nutrients. This will likely reduce herbicide injury to nearby desirable plants. ▪ Optional: Remove broadleaf plants (non-grass plants like dandelions). Fall treatment is best. Spot-treat, do not broadcast to entire lawn if not needed. Only effective if it touches a broad leaf plant. ▪ Optional: to remove unwanted annual grasses (along curb edges, driveway edges or trouble spots) Crabgrass, yellow foxtail, barnyard grass. Observe problem plants during the summer. Do nothing but document their location. In the spring use a pre-emergent to take care of the sprouting of the annual grass seeds. ▪ Spring pre-emergent should not be applied until soils warm up to about 60 °f. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow pesticide labels; they are the law. ▪ Avoid use of weed/feed mixes, needs & timing for weed control may be different from that of nutrients. This will likely reduce herbicide injury to nearby desirable plants. ▪ Remove broadleaf (non-grass plants like dandelions). Fall treatment is best. Spot-treat, do not broadcast to entire lawn if not needed. Only effective if it touches a broad leaf plant. ▪ To remove unwanted annual grasses (along curb edges, driveway edges or trouble spots) Crabgrass, yellow foxtail, barnyard grass. Observe problem plants during the summer & document their location. In the spring use a pre-emergent to eliminate sprouting of the annual grass seeds. ▪ Spring pre-emergent should not be applied until soils warm up to 60°f ▪ Optional: remove perennial unwanted grasses such as quackgrass. These grasses blend in & are not a big problem. Spot spray using a non-selective herbicide, It will kill all plants it comes in contact with. Spraying should be followed by resodding or reseeding. Note the spring pre-emergent will not remove perennial plants.
Fertilizer tips	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calibrate equipment ▪ Avoid application of quick release N during the spring & early summer ▪ Granular: Use drop spreader or shield by edges, sweep granules that fall on hard surfaces. 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 ▪ Law requires 0 Phosphorous (p) fertilizer* 	
Correct FertilizerTake soil test, follow recommendations for fertilizer use.....		



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Next Best Fertilizer	<p>½ - 1 pound Nitrogen (N) per 1000 sq/ft near Labor Day (35 -50% slow release*)</p> <p>Typically an N-P-K ratio of 4-0-2 or 4-0-3 is ok for MN.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically an N-P-K ratio of 4-0-2 or 4-0-3 is ok for MN. ▪ Irrigated sites: 2 applications Labor Day 1 pound Nitrogen(N) per 1000 sq/ft (35-50%slow release*) & around Halloween; 1 pound N per 1000 sq/ft (Quick release, watered in ¼ - ½ inch water) ▪ Halloween application should not be on frozen ground*. ▪ Non-irrigated sites: 1 application around Labor Day. 1 pound N per 1000 sq/ft (35-50% slow release*) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically an N-P-K ratio of 4-0-2 or 4-0-3 is ok for MN. ▪ Best results: 3 times. Around first mow ¾ pounds of Nitrogen(N) per 1000 sq/ft (35-50%slow release*) & Labor Day 1 pound of N per 1000 sq/ft, (35-50%slow release*) & around Halloween 1 pound of N per 1000 sq/ft (quick release, watered in ¼ - 1/2 inch water) ▪ Labor Day application most important. ▪ Halloween application should not be on frozen ground*. ▪ Second Best: 2-3 applications ▪ Around the first mow ¾ pounds of N per 1000 sq/ft (35-50%slow release*) ▪ Around Labor Day 1 pound of N per 1000 sq/ft(35-50%slow release*) ▪ An additional ½ to ¾ pound of slow release N can be applied from late May through June as a means of preserving plant health & vigor.

* - for more information see DETAIL PAGE