

Edging Lawns in Arlington, Texas and the Southern Cross Timbers

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Proper lawn edging at the beginning of the growing season and throughout the growing season is important for the over all well being of turf grass. Modern tools provide us more options to edge a lawn.

In considering turf grass health especially St. Augustine grass it is important to note that the healthiest arrangement in height and distance of the turf from the driveway, sidewalk or street curb is that the height of the cut grass should be level with these structures and not be allowed to build up over time. Allowing turf build up and then, periodically edging the lawn, leaving the build up in place exposes the edge of the turf to drought and temperature extremes. If this occurs the edge of the turf will dry out, turn brown, release carbohydrate into the adjoining turf and soil and leave the turf grass vulnerable to brown patch and take all patch fungus.

A good practice to avoid this issue is to use a heavy gas edger to edge these areas cutting a one and a half to two inch gap between the structure and turf, with the edger blade on a deep depth setting, while edging so that the edge of the turf will grow downward and not leave the edge of the turf exposed to the elements. It is also helpful during this detail edging that the edger be push and pulled while edging creating a small trench for the grass to grow in curvature along the perimeter of the turf. The optimal time frame during the growing season to do this is once the turf has greened up on its own and the turf has been fertilized and normal noticeable improvements from the fertilization as occurred. This is the time that runners grow the fastest. This is usually the same time as when early spring weeds begin to go away.

In some cases it may be necessary to use a string trimmer and cut the built up turf at a 45 degree angle promoting the turf to regrow down to the same height as the driveway, sidewalk or street curb. This is a good practice for non-vital edge or perimeter turf especially St. Augustine grass.

Subsequent edging during the growing season may be done with a lighter edger or string trimmer requiring only that the grass blades be cut and taking into consideration future turf build up.