

Mowing Lawns in Arlington, Texas and the Southern Cross Timbers

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These few tips are to help reduce the need for weed pre-emergents and to help keep the turf green and full.

The first mowing of the lawn should be to clean up the debris that is left over from the winter. This debris can have material in it that has bacteria, virus, fungus and biting insects.

Although it is not always necessary, and not very prevalent in today's sustainable conscious environment, it is a good idea to pick up this first cutting with a grass catcher. This first cutting is usually done with the lawn mower deck on a lower than normal setting to pick up the build up of the last growing season and winter thatch build up along with tree leaves and twigs.

In North Texas this first mowing, with the mowing deck on a lower setting, is usually done around the end of March.

The mowing deck should be lower for this first mowing but, not so low that it cuts into the St. Augustine runners or cuts into Bermuda grass runners.

Change mowing patterns weekly to avoid development of stress or weak spots in the turf from lawn mower wheels. Make straight lines when mowing. This will decrease stress at the turning points. Otherwise, make "Y" turns and lift the blades off the ground as you turn.

If you have children who play in your yard or pets and are trying to go the organic route you can continue to use a grass catcher when mowing until the third or fourth week of May picking up all the weed seeds while mowing. With yards with very few weeds this works well the first year. With yards that have had a problem with weeds this takes a few years before you begin to see very few weeds at the beginning of the growing season.

Use a fertilizer that best suits your turf and soil needs in organic or conventional form. Corn gluten meal may also be used. Add top soil on stress or weak spots.

For optimum lawn mower performance have the lawn mower blade sharpened regularly, checking the balance of the blade. Keep the air cleaner clean and change the crank case oil per the manufacturers specifications.

The best time of day to mow for the lawn is in the evening just before dusk.

Briefly misting the lawn turf with the water sprinkler system or hose nozzle just before and just after mowing will result in faster healing time for the cut grass blade tip. This practice helps to keep the lawn green and healthy.