Turfgrass adds beauty to most landscapes, helps cool the environment, and gives people a place to play, sit and walk barefoot. Maintaining a lawn properly helps keep it beautiful for years to come, and reduces the likelihood of problems. A few simple practices can make lawn care easier and more satisfying.

**Pre-emergent Herbicide**
Control annual weeds (crabgrass, spurge, foxtail, oxalis). Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to problem areas (normally along sidewalks and driveways) or entire yard if infestation is severe. Examples of turf pre-emergent herbicides include Halt, Barricade, Galleria, etc. Pre-emergents are often combined with a fertilizer.

**CHECK SPRINKLERS**
Check all sprinkler heads to make sure they are giving accurate coverage and functioning properly. Most sprinkler heads should overlap each other. (Head to head coverage)

**Watering**
Water long enough for water to penetrate six to eight inches deep. Water deeply and infrequently, applying the amount specified in the calendar. Allow the turf and soil to dry between watering.

**Mowing Height**
Setting the lawn mower to cut turfgrass taller promotes a stronger root system, and encourages thicker growth which can help eliminate some weed problems.

**Aeration**
Aerate the lawn using a core aerator. Remove a minimum of a 4-inch plug, and leave them on the lawn to disintegrate, if possible. Aeration improves the penetration of water, herbicide and fertilizer, and helps reduce compaction and thatch.

**Broadleaf Herbicide**
Control perennial broadleaf weeds (dandelions, morning glory, knotweed, chickweed, oxalis, black medic, etc). Examples of broadleaf weed killers include Weed-B-Gon, Trimec, Lawn Weed Killer, Dandelion Killer, 2,4-D, Confront, Turflon Ester, etc.

**Fertilizer**
Greens up the lawn. Apply a lawn fertilizer that is high in nitrogen (21-0-0, 21-3-6, 20-2-4, 34-0-0, etc.) at a rate of ½ pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. This equals about 5 pounds of 21-0-0 or an equivalent fertilizer, or 3 pounds of 34-0-0 or an equivalent fertilizer/ 1,000 square feet.

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Care</th>
<th>Optimum Care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>t Apply a pre-emergent to control annual weeds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>t Apply 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches of water per week.</td>
<td>t Aerate the lawn with a core aerator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t Set the mower to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.</td>
<td>t Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water/week. Measure the sprinkler system output to make sure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t Check the sprinklers for accurate coverage and proper function.</td>
<td>t Check the sprinkler heads for accurate coverage and proper function.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t Set the mower to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches high.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Minimum Care**

**MAY 1**
- Apply a broadleaf herbicide to control perennial weeds.

**JUNE 1**
- Re-apply a pre-emergent to control annual weeds.

**JULY 1**
- Apply 2 to 2 1/2 inches of water/week.
- Set the mower higher to cut the lawn 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall.

**SEPTEMBER 1**
- Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water/week.
- Aerate using a core aerator and leave on the lawn.
- Continue to mow the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.
- Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer (slow release products are best). This is the most important fertilizer application of the year.

**OCTOBER 15**
- Lower the height of the mower and cut the lawn 1 1/2 to 2 inches tall.
- Drain the irrigation lines.

**NOVEMBER 1**
- Apply 1 pound of nitrogen/1,000 square feet using ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or urea (46-0-0) before rain or snow, if possible.

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**Optimum Care**

**MAY 1**
- Apply a broadleaf herbicide to control perennial weeds.
- Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer. A slow release product is best.

**JUNE 1**
- Re-apply a pre-emergent to control annual weeds.

**JULY 1**
- Apply 2 to 2 1/2 inches water/week.
- Set the mower higher to cut the lawn 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall.

**SEPTEMBER 1**
- Apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water/week.
- Set the mower to cut the lawn 2 to 2 1/2 inches tall.
- Aerate the lawn with a core aerator, then overseed to introduce new grass seed and help thicken the lawn, as needed.
- Apply a slow-release, high nitrogen fertilizer. This is the most important fertilizer application of the year.
- Apply a broadleaf herbicide to control perennial weeds.

**OCTOBER 15**
- Lower the height of the mower to cut the lawn 1 1/2 to 2 inches tall.
- Winterize the sprinkler system by draining the lines and blowing out the system, one station at a time.

**NOVEMBER 1**
- Apply 1 pound of nitrogen/1,000 square feet using ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or urea (46-0-0) before rain or snow, if possible.