

LAWNS and FLOWER BEDS MAINTENANCE

Responding to more environmentally responsible options we established ways to highly and effectively produce a healthy, abundant, beautiful lawn and gardens that's not only attractive but safe for the earth and for the community.

Facility Management grounds considered planting grasses, shrubs, trees, and flowers that will tolerate the water restrictions place on us by the City due to periods of below average rain and snow precipitation.

Watering - Soil type and weather conditions, turf-grass species and the desired quality of lawn influence how much water you should apply and how often. Turf-type fescue lawns require as much or more water as the typical bluegrass lawn. Buffalo grass and blue grama survive and look good for weeks without watering.

When you water, thoroughly wet the soil to the depth of the lawn's root system. Don't water again until it becomes dry at the depth. Deeper, infrequent watering program promotes a deeper root system and drought endurance and conserves water. Colorado soils vary in how they accept water. Sandy soils require less water more often than clay soil. Grasses growing in shade generally require less water, but more water is needed were tree roots compete with the lawn.

For watering sloped area where water naturally runs downhill, interval watering is recommended rather than trying to apply water all at one time, water the area to the point of runoff, then shut off the system and allow it to soak in for thirty minutes or more. Repeat the cycle in the same area to allow deeper percolation into clay soils

Aeration – One of the most beneficial ways to reduce soil compaction while controlling thatch accumulation is by core aeration. Plugs or cores of soil and thatch, 2 to 3 inches long, are removed by mechanical aerating machine and deposited in the lawn's surface. The holes left from aeration permit water, air, and nutrients to enter the soil and create a healthier root zone environment. Plugs can be removed off the lawn after aeration or leave them to disintegrate and filter back down into the lawn, mowing over the plugs with a rotary lawn mower can break them down more rapidly.

Fertilizing – Nitrogen is the most important nutrient for lawn grasses to maintain growth and good color. Cool season grasses such as Kentucky blue-grass, turf-type fescues, and perennial ryegrass need nitrogen fertilizer to produce an attractive and dense turf. Apply the equivalent of 1lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn, per application every six weeks, depending on the quality of lawn desire.

The type of fertilizer you decide to apply is a matter of personal choice. Remember that nitrogen is the most important nutrient in lawn fertilizers. Organic fertilizers, which are composed of natural products such as animal manures or plant components, are not as concentrate, so more fertilizer is needed to achieve the recommended rate of nitrogen.

Weed control – Weed control begins with the proper identification of the weed. Lawn weeds are classified as grassy types (crabgrass, tall fescue, quack-grass) or broadleaf (dandelion, plantain, spurge). Once you've determined the weed, find out whether it's an annual that grows from seed each year or a perennial that grows back from its roots year after year. You may decide whether to you want to use a chemical weed killer or pull or dig the weeds by hands.

The easiest way to control annual weeds is with pre-emergent herbicides that prevent weed seed germination and rooting timing is important these materials must be applied before the seeds are allowed to germinate. To control weeds that begin to grow in late spring or early summer, apply a pre-emergent in mid to late April before warm weather causes weeds to germinate.

Perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, bindweed, plantain and buckhorn grow from their roots each year and spread from both seeds and underground roots. To control them, use a post-emergent herbicide after the weed leaves have emerged.

Additionally the following options are taken under consideration for planting and maintenance:

- We use drought tolerant materials including native grasses
- We practice watering for longer period of time but with lesser frequency (the result is that roots will grow deeper into the soil, and then the grass will be able to pull moisture off the soil)
- Help retain moisture to our flower beds by adding a variety of wood mulch
- We do not cut the grass to short (taller grass have deeper root grow)
- We water the grass during the morning hours (during the morning time the water will not evaporate as easy also the weather is cooler than in the afternoon)
- We considered slopes that encourages water run-off in a particular direction
- We reduced large areas of lawn and replaced with xeriscaping materials
- We use eco-friendly weed control materials and we understand that the most eco-friendly method to controlling weeds is to promote the grow of a healthy lawn and garden, a flourishing lawn or full flower beds will go along way on shocking and outgrowing weeds.

XERISCAPE

Means water efficient or water-wise landscaping. The slogan was “Xeriscape: water conservation through creative landscaping”. Even though the syllables technically refer to dry (xeric) and vista (scape), the original intent was to promote wise water use through water-efficient landscaping, not necessarily to eliminate irrigation. To help promote understanding of how to accomplish truly water-efficient landscaping, the following Xeriscape fundamentals have been promoted.

- Plan and design – For water conservation and beauty from the start
- Create partial turf areas – of manageable sizes, shapes and appropriate grasses
- Group plants of similar water needs together – then experiment to determine how much and how often to water for the specific site
- Consider using soil amendments – like compost or manure
- Consider using mulches – such as woodchips, especially in high and moderate watering zones
- Irrigate efficiently – with properly designed systems and by applying the right amount of water at the right time.
- Maintain the landscape appropriately - by mowing, pruning, and fertilizing properly