



Summer Lawn Information Resource Sheet
Reviewed by Susan Emhardt-Servidio, Senior Horticulturist- July 2024

Tips to keep a summer lawn healthy:

- Watering:
 - Lawns require 1” of water per week on average (combined irrigation and rain).
 - Avoid early evening watering 5pm-10pm. *“Recent research indicates 10 pm watering reduces disease compared to 5 am watering. [T]he nighttime (after sundown) watering threat for disease is a myth.”* ~James Murphy- Rutgers Extension Specialist, Department of Plant Biology
 - Less frequent watering, but longer (approx. 30mins.) rather than every day for 10-15mins. Irrigating a lawn for 45mins. is too long.
 - Check in ground watering systems for area overlap and clogged or broken heads.
 - Use an automatic rain gauge sensor to turn off irrigation during rain events.
- Mowing:
 - Set mower blades high (3”) to prevent burning the lawn in summer heat
 - Sharpen mower blades to prevent injury to grass
- Fertilizer:
 - Don’t fertilizing the lawn in July through mid to late August.
 - Have your soil tested now for pH and fertility through the Rutgers Soil Lab before applying fall fertilizers or lime.
- Managing Lawn Fungus:
 - Improper cultural factors such as too much water, compacted soils, too much or too little fertilizer in spring can make lawn susceptible to fungus.
 - Environmental factors- night temperature above 65°F, high humidity or high moisture from rain or irrigation for 2-3 consecutive days are optimum for fungus outbreak.
 - Fungicides are generally used as a preventive not a curative for fungus, meaning they need to be applied before you see the damage.
 - We don’t encourage the use of fungicide by homeowners because timing is everything. Drier weather will help stop the progress of most fungus.
- Reseeding:
 - Dead patches in the lawn from sun scorching or fungus can be remediated in late August through September. Use a mix of varieties of tall fescues for good drought tolerance.

RESOURCES:

General Lawn Resources include:

- Rutgers FS102- Your Lawn and Its Care- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs102/>
- Rutgers FS814- Managing Diseases of Landscape Turf- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=FS814>
- Rutgers FS584- Seeding your Lawn- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs584/>
- Chapter 2: Lawns in the Low Maintenance Landscaping Guide for the Barnegat Bay Watershed - <https://go.rutgers.edu/lowmaintenancepdf>



Scan QR Code for
 Low Maintenance
 Landscaping Guide



Common Lawn Weed Resources: It's important to know your weed **BEFORE** you treat. Bring it into the Ag Center for identification.

- NC State Extension- Spotted Spurge- <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/spotted-spurge>
- **Rutgers Gardening and Landscaping Publications-** <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/category.php?cat=5>
- Rutgers FS119- Weed Control in Home Lawns- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs119/>
- Rutgers FS385 Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs385/>
- New Jersey Weed Gallery: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/weeds>
- Penn State Extension <https://extension.psu.edu/mid-atlantic-field-crop-weed-management-guide>
- [Weed Identification Photos | University of Maryland Extension \(umd.edu\)](#) (includes name, picture, life cycle, growth habit, reproduction, control)
 - Rutgers FS1290- Identifying and Understanding False-Green Kyllinga in Cool Season Turf
 - Rutgers FS1308- Crabgrass Control in Lawns for Homeowners in the Northern US-
 - Rutgers FS1237- Japanese Stiltgrass Control in the Home Lawn and Landscape
 - Rutgers FS072- Annual and Roughstalk Bluegrass Management for NJ Home Lawns
 - Rutgers FS1219- Controlling Ground Ivy in Home Lawns