

## Turf Mowing Guidelines

Mowing height is one of the most important aspects of lawn care. Turf grasses mowed at low heights have limited leaf area to sustain photosynthesis rates vital to maintaining a high level of plant vigor. Mowing heights between 2"–3" for most lawns is best. The upper range is best for summer months.

It is important not to cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade during any one cutting period. Tests have shown that turf mowed at 2" or higher have twice the root growth than does turf mowed at ¾". In general, lawns with smaller root mass stress easier, particularly in the summer when moisture is limited.

The direction of mowing should be altered each time the lawn is mowed. This will reduce the tracking appearance noted in older lawns. Higher mowing heights keep the soil cooler during the summer. Additionally, it is harder for weeds to take because of the reduction of sunlight at the soil level and the competition on weed seedlings in their initial establishment phase.

Regular aeration and thatch removal of turf will reduce water usage, allow fertilizers and soil builders to reach roots faster, reduce rainwater from being trapped on sidewalks because of thatch build up, and provide a healthy and vigorous appearance.



### Other important facts:

- Grass is 30% cooler than asphalt on hot summer days.
- The front lawns of (8) homes provide the cooling effect of a 70-ton A/C unit.
- 2,500 sq. ft. of turf absorbs carbon dioxide and releases enough oxygen for a family of four.

# Summer Landscaping Punch List

**Organic Fertilizer**  
Apply on shrubs and ground cover  
for yellowing plant material.

**Weed Control**  
Treat for Bermuda Grasses

**Fungus Control**  
Spray for Powdery Mildew. Highly  
susceptible are Nandina and  
Crape Myrtle.

**Ornamental Pest Control**  
This time of year treat Scale on  
Plum trees, Aphids on Tulip trees,  
and Shot hole on Cherries

**Wood Structures**  
Now is the time to paint and seal  
Monument signs and decks, and  
replace retaining walls while  
the soil is dry.

**Streets**  
Replace gutters, paint fire lane  
markings, and perform needed  
asphalt work.

**Irrigation**  
Install water conserving sprinklers  
and nozzles. Water usage peaks in  
June and July.

## What is a Backflow Prevention Device?

Backflow prevention devices keep our drinking water safe. Most irrigation systems share water lines with potable water systems. Backflow devices are specially designed valves that prevent irrigation water or backflow from entering the domestic water lines.

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 established a national program to protect the quality of America's drinking water. It was Federally mandated that water districts provide safe drinking water. State and local codes were developed that identified requirements for all water distribution systems. Backflow prevention devices play a big part in these requirements.

There are many types and designs of backflow devices. Along with local code requirements, backflow devices are chosen based on system design, application, and possible hazards. Because they play such an important role in our water systems, all backflows must be re-certified every year.

If you have any questions, or would like to get more information about certifying your backflow devices, please call or email us at: [info@JPALandscape.com](mailto:info@JPALandscape.com).



is an official publication of JPA  
Landscape & Construction, Inc.

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