

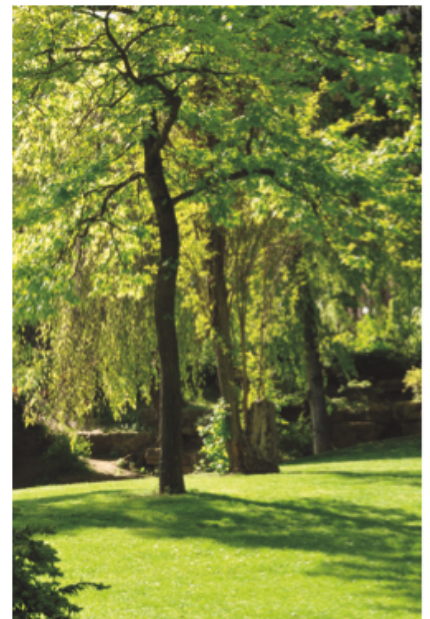
# BEST PRACTICES



## Be Kind to your Grass: Prepare Your Lawn for the Summer

### What should you do to prepare your lawn for summer to keep it healthy?

- Mow regularly (3-4 times per month) and leave the clippings on the lawn
- Mow your lawn high (2-3 inches tall) to help shade out weeds and keep the soil cool and moist. Only cut a 1/3 of the grass blade at a time
- Sharpen mower blades to reduce brown grass tips
- Apply a slow-release, organic fertilizer in April or wait until fall to apply
- Pull weeds individually
- Consult *Grow Smart, Grow Safe: Consumer Guide to Lawn and Garden Products* for product information. Visit <https://growsmartgrowsafe.org>
- Water in the evening or early morning to reduce evaporation
- Aerate your lawn in spring or fall to improve soil and lawn health (share rental with a neighbor to save money)
- Top-dress your lawn with 1/4" to 1/2" of fine high quality compost to help cool grass roots, reduce evaporation and provide nutrients
- Consider allowing your lawn to go dormant until fall; Watering 1/2" once or twice a month is plenty to tide it over until fall rains return



### Time for a new mower?

**Choose an electric "mulching mower". Mulching mowers cut the grass into fine pieces and blows the clippings down to the soil where they keep the soil cool and feed your lawn. Plus, they lower your carbon footprint!**

Source: Stream Team News, Summer 2011