

The Basics:

1. **Mowing:** don't let the grass blades get taller than

All lawns need some management.

This quick reference guide is designed for the homeowner who doesn't have a lot of time to "baby" their lawn –but wants it to look good!

Zoysia lawns are beautiful, but take extra attention to look their best. Zoysia can tolerate some shade, but not too deep and dark. These lawns need a good de-thatching in the spring and fall (to avoid diseases and pests) and they like a regular fertilizing schedule. Keeping the mowing height to around 1 inch will also keep diseases from causing you problems.

Activities required include:

- Watering
- Fertilizing –twice a year only
- De-thatching
- Mowing
- Controlling weeds and pests
- Aerating

Improper watering, either too little or too much, or at the wrong time of day, is a major factor in having a poor lawn.

De-thatching is removing the accumulated dead plant tissue (thatch) from underneath the leaf blades. When thatch builds up, pests and diseases attack the turf.

Aerating is simply poking holes through the grass and into the soil, loosening the soil so that air, water, and roots will have some room. This can be done by renting a machine called an "Aerator", walking around with golf shoes on, or any other means of poking small holes through the grass into the soil.

Lawn Maintenance Schedule:

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Activity</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| January | Read some good books, volunteer at your favorite charity. |
| February | Kill summer weeds early-call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations. |
| March | Once the danger of frost has passed, de-thatch and aerates. Do this once before the grass turns green. |
| April | When the grass turns green it's called "green-up". Begin fertilizing. Water * see back panel De-thatch after green-up Fertilize with 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn or 8 pounds of 12-4-8. Mow- 1/2 to 2 inches high |
| May | Water Mow-1 to 2 inches high Apply insecticide to reduce bill bugs |
| June | Water Fertilize with 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn or 8 pounds of 12-4-8. Apply insecticide to reduce bill bugs Mow- 1/2 to 2 inches high |

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Activity</i> |
|---------------|---|
| July | Water Fertilize with 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn or 8 pounds of 12-4-8. Mow-1/2 to 2 inches high |
| August | Water Fertilize with 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn or 8 pounds of 12-4-8. (the last until next spring!) Mow-1/2 to 2 inches high |