



WATER RESTRICTIONS MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 15

	RESIDENTIAL LAWNS	TREES, SHRUBS, FLOWERS	VEGETABLE GARDENS
STAGE 1 May 1 – Oct 15	EVEN ADDRESS Saturday ODD ADDRESS Sunday AUTOMATIC WATERING 5am – 7am MANUAL WATERING 6am – 9am	 HAND WATERING SOAKER HOSE or DRIP IRRIGATION Any time	 SPRINKLERS Any day 5am – 9am Any time
	STAGE 2	 LAWN WATERING PROHIBITED	 HAND WATERING SOAKER HOSE or DRIP IRRIGATION Any time

Water restrictions conserve drinking water during the summer and early fall.

One hour a week of watering or rain is all you need for a healthy lawn.

Visit metrovancover.org/lawns for the complete restrictions.



SPRING (MARCH – MAY)	SUMMER (JUNE – AUGUST)	FALL (SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER)	WINTER (DECEMBER – FEBRUARY)
Test soil pH and apply lime at half the recommended rate (apply the remainder in fall)	Continue to mow as needed and leave the clippings on the lawn	Aerate, rake, and apply a thin layer of sand	Try to minimize foot traffic on lawns while soil is soggy with winter rains
Aerate compacted areas of lawns so air, water, and nutrients can reach the roots	Water your lawn for an hour, once a week – if it hasn't rained	Improve thinned areas by overseeding	Rake lawns free of leaves and twigs
Top-dress with 1 cm of sand or a mix of soil and compost	Have chafer beetle? Contact your city about natural pest control using nematodes (requires a watering permit)	Apply a second treatment of lime	Sharpen mower blades

One hour a week of watering or rain is all you need for a healthy lawn

Overseed with a low-maintenance lawn seed mixture

Set the lawn mower blade at ankle height

After mowing, leave clippings on the lawn to break down, become a source of nitrogen, and help the soil retain moisture

Once the lawn shows vigorous growth, mow once a week, cutting not more than the top third of grass length

Remove buildup of thatch; consider assistance from a lawn care professional

Follow regional water restrictions

This year, try over-seeding with micro clover. Micro clover lawns stay greener than traditional lawns through summer dry periods and are generally unaffected by wet winter conditions.

Visit itsalldrinkingwater.ca for lawn care and water conservation tips.



WATERWISE LAWN CARE



The region sees a lot of rain in the winter but summers tend to be dry. Seasonal maintenance will help a healthy lawn thrive with less watering when water restrictions are in effect.

Plan Ahead

Before spring, plan your lawn care routine and mark the dates on your calendar. For activities that require watering, keep the regional watering restrictions in mind.

Overseed

Choose grass and/or micro clover varieties that require less water and maintenance. Low-maintenance lawns are hardier, more resilient in dry conditions, require less mowing, and are more resistant to pests and disease.

Since grass seeds require water and a minimum of three weeks to establish, plan to overseed at least a month before the start of regional watering regulations.

Remove Thatch

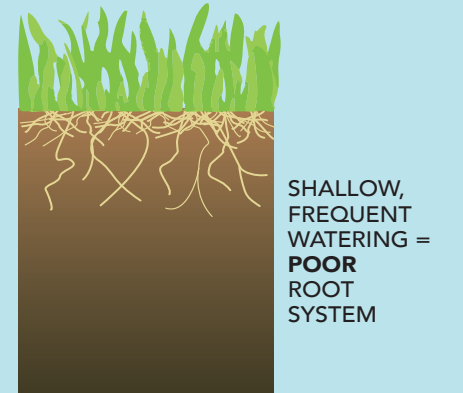
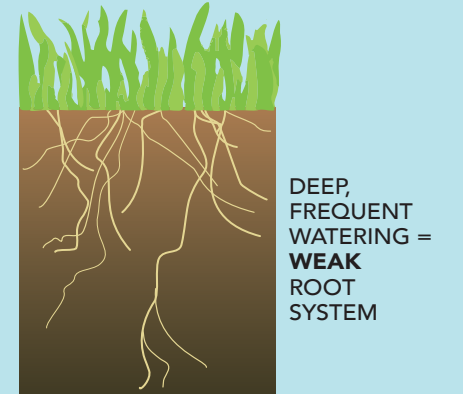
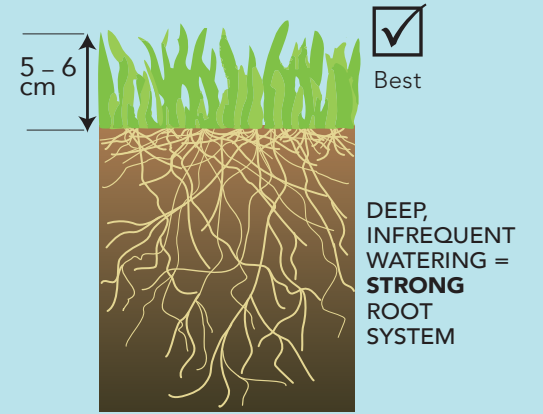
Thatch is a layer of undecomposed grass leaves intermingled with a layer of dead and living roots and stems. Too much thatch can build up into a compacted mat that prevents water and nutrients from reaching grass roots.

Remove thick thatch either in late spring or early fall, using a rake, a de-thatching machine, or hire a lawn care professional.

Mowing

Set your mower at ankle height. This helps your lawn develop deep roots and dense, healthy growth that crowds out weeds. Taller grass keeps roots shaded and better able to hold water. Cutting too much at once stresses the grass and makes the clippings too long to leave on the lawn, and may lead to build up of thatch. Shorter clippings return nutrients to the soil as they decompose. An even higher mowing height can help prevent European chafer beetles, which prefer to lay eggs on closely-cropped lawns.

Watering Methods and Root Growth



Apply lime in the early spring and fall, at least a month before overseeding.

Apply Lime

Apply lime to adjust acidic soil to a neutral pH, which protects grass from heat and lack of water. Local garden centres will have kits to measure the pH of your soil, tools to spread lime evenly, and advice on which type to buy and how much to apply.

Aerate

Aerate lawns in the spring and fall using a manual or gas-powered aerator. After aerating, let the plugs dry for a few days before raking out or breaking up with a mower. Rake in a thin layer of coarse builders' sand to fill the holes. This will help maintain aeration and break up compacted soil.



It's okay to let your lawn go dormant as the summer progresses. This is a natural response to dry weather. Your lawn will quickly green up again in the fall when heavy dews and rain return.

Be Waterwise

Lawns need as little as 2 cm of water a week to stay healthy (maintain a strong root system). That's the equivalent of one hour a week of rainfall or watering. Using too much water leaches nutrients from your lawn, promotes shallow rooting, and contributes to build up of thatch.

Water in the early morning, to comply with watering restrictions and to reduce evaporation.



Aim to remove one-third of the grass length at each mowing.

Weeding

Use gardening tools to remove weeds before they have a chance to flower and establish roots. Top-dress damaged areas with sand or soil and overseed before weeds can re-establish.

