

Summer Watering Guide

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Central Ohio Edition · 22 actions for hot months

WATERING

- Apply 1 inch of water per week including rainfall
- Water deeply 2-3 times weekly, not daily
- Water before 9am to minimize evaporation
- Never water in the evening (fungal pressure)
- Skip watering if there was rain in last 36hr

MEASURING

- Place tuna cans across the lawn during watering
- Time how long sprinklers take to reach 1 inch
- Re-audit irrigation system every 4 weeks
- Check for clogged sprinkler heads weekly

MOWING

- Raise mowing height to 4 inches in July-August
- Mow weekly even in slow-growth periods
- Leave clippings on the lawn (free nitrogen)
- Mow when grass is dry, never after rain

DROUGHT STRATEGY

- Let lawn go dormant rather than half-watering
- Dormant grass is brown but crowns are alive
- Light hydration weekly during long droughts
- Test crown: pull a tiller — green = dormant, brown = dead
- Resume normal watering only after 2+ inches rain

WATCH FOR

- Brown patch fungus (tall fescue, hot humid nights)
- Crabgrass breakthrough in thin areas
- Grub damage in late summer (loose turf)
- Iron chlorosis (yellow with green veins)