Grow Deeper Roots with Your Mower

It’s easy to help grass roots grow deep, reach more water (so you don’t have to water as much) and ultimately, become healthier, stronger and more disease-free even during drought.

How?

Set your mower height at 3.5 inches.

To learn more, visit: extension.umn.edu/turfgrass
Give Your Lawn a Brain

Invest in a SMART Controller

Take the worry out of when to water. Whether it rains a little or a lot, a SMART controller automatically adjusts to weather and soil moisture conditions. For a couple hundred dollars, you can be water SMART!

Get SMART with a Rain Sensor

A rain sensor can be added to any irrigation system. It stops it from running when it rains. In fact, it’s the law. A sensor is required on any system installed in Minnesota after 2003.

A SMART Controller can reduce water usage by 30 to 50%.

To learn more, visit: extension.umn.edu/turfgrass
Cement Won’t Grow

Get a Sprinkler Check Up...

Did you know 25% of homes in the Twin Cities have five or more leaking sprinklers?* Just one can waste 1,000 gallons/hour! Keep your water bill low and conserve precious groundwater. Have a certified irrigation contractor test your system every three years.

... or Do It Yourself!

It’s easy to check your own irrigation system. Learn how to stay in tune by visiting us at extension.umn.edu/turfgrass.

*Reducing Water Use on Twin Cities Lawns, Metropolitan Council, 2016

Realign sprinkler heads away from sidewalks and driveways.

To learn more, visit: extension.umn.edu/turfgrass
Try Low-Maintenance Grasses

Most Minnesota lawns are planted with Kentucky bluegrass which requires lots of water, fertilizer and mowing to look good. For a terrific looking, easy lawn, try growing fescues. Fine fescue grows slowly. Tall fescue’s roots grow deep and stay green even after drought. Mow less, water less!

Results after 60-day drought trial
SMART Lawns Make More Sense

Half of Twin Cities residents run their irrigation systems every other day, but your lawn doesn’t need it! Remember, it rains, too. An irrigation system with a SMART controller can figure it out for you. It automatically adjusts to weather and soil moisture content.

Rain + Watering = 1” Per Week

Watering too much encourages disease to spread and keeps grass roots short, and unable to handle drought. Sprinkle several times to wet the soil 6-8 inches deep. Wait a week to water again.

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