



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

Healthy Garden Tips

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EASY LAWN CARE

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Best Lawn Grasses for Napa County

Cool Season lawn grass species grow best

(Examples: perennial rye, Kentucky blue, tall fescue, red fescue)

Plant a seed mixture of species and varieties (or use a grass sod lawn)

High quality seed (is worth the price) = easy care grass lawn

Seed germinations requires 3 to 21 days. Surface must remain moist.

Grass leaves (blades) needed for growth.

Roots grow 12 to 36 inches deep.

Lawns need 5+ hours of sun, regular watering, regular mowing, N and S.

Easy Lawn Care Practices

1. Water
2. Mow
3. Fertilize

1. Water Regularly

Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep to lawn surface each time you irrigate to rewet soil 1 ft. deep. Prevent water run-off: split time and give the water time to soak into the soil. Adjust time between water dates with season.

Example schedule: March: water once every 14 days (unless rain)

April - water once every 10 days

May - water once every 7 days

June - water once every 5 days

July - water once every 3 days

Aug - water once every 5 days

Sep - water once every 7 days

Oct - water once every 10 days

Nov - water once every 14 days (unless rain)

Dec – Jan/Feb no water needed

To save water:

Add days between watering. Always water $\frac{3}{4}$ inch per time. Raise mower to 3 inch height so grass shades soil surface. Only fertilize twice: once in October and once in March.

2. Mow Regularly

Mow on a regular schedule to remove $\frac{1}{3}$ of grass height

Short bladed grasses tolerate short mowing height (Bentgrass = $\frac{3}{4}$ inch)

Tall bladed grass needs high mowing height (Tall fescue = 3 inches)

Recommended: 2 inch mowing height for most lawn grasses

3. Fertilizers

Lawn grasses need Nitrogen and Sulfur for healthy growth.

Fertilize when actively growing in Spring and Fall

Follow fertilizer package label directions for correct methods and rate

Apply a regular irrigation immediately after applying fertilizer.