Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON HODELSHITLING PROCESS

FOUNDATIONS IN HORTICULTURE

Notes with Answers for Lawns Module

Lawn Establishment

Why should you get a soil test prior to establishing a new lawn?

A soil test will help determine soil type and recommendations for adjusting pH and fertility.

Post-plant Care

If seeding a new lawn, how often should you irrigate the seeded area before germination takes place?

At least once per day, but depending on the location it may need irrigation several times per day.

Once germination occurs, how often should you irrigate?

Only once per day for the first week, then reduce to every few days.

When should you begin mowing new lawns?

Begin mowing once the grass reaches 3 inches.

Lawn maintenance

What is the correct mowing height?

For optimal turf health, maintain 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches

Describe the One Third rule.

Mow frequently enough so no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade is removed at a time.

The frequency of lawn fertilization is dependent on what factors? Species of grass and quality expectations.

Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

FOUNDATIONS IN HORTICULTURE

Notes with Answers for Lawns Module

Describe the lawn fertilization "holiday" calendar schedule.

Fertilize near these holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day.

If you only want to fertilize once per year, when should you do it? *Early September*.

What steps will help protect lawns during drought conditions?

- If irrigated, continue irrigation. Longer, infrequent irrigation is better to acquire 1 inch per week.
- Keep unnecessary traffic off the grass.
- Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers.