

Gilbert Aide-de-Camp

Your friendly Outdoor Assistant

Love My Lawn

Dreaming of a perfectly manicured lawn? A lawn that enhances the presentation of your property!

The key ingredients to a great lawn are: Sunlight, Water, Fertiliser and Mowing. Get these right, and weeds won't be able to gain a foothold.

• Sunlight

Grass loves sunlight. Leaves are the food factory for the plant, and Sunlight is the power source for that factory. With plenty of sunlight you will see plenty of healthy growth.

If there are tree branches overhanging your lawn, then have the lower branches pruned back to allow more sunlight onto the grass.

Some types of grass are advertised as shade tolerant, but a greener, healthier lawn needs full sun.

• Water

To be healthy, strong and vibrant, our lawns need a regular supply of water. 80% of grass is water, and is pumped from the roots to give strength to the stalks and leaves.

To encourage root growth, give your lawn a deep drink weekly rather than short frequent waterings. It's best to water in the early mornings, or the late afternoon, to prevent the moisture evaporating in the mid-day sun.

Installing an automatic sprinkler system to your lawn is a labour-saving way of ensuring your grass receives the right amount of water to stay vital.

• Fertiliser

Every time we mow our lawns and remove the grass clippings, we remove vital nutrients from the lawn. Mulching the grass clippings back into the lawn is a great way to re-fertilise your lawn.

But, from time to time we need to re-invigorate our lawns with a good top-up of fertiliser. Slow-release Organic fertilisers are the best, and should be applied in Spring, Summer and Autumn.

• Mowing

To keep your lawn looking fresh and attractive, it needs to be mown regularly - once a week if possible.



Only cut about a third of the grass leaf at a time. If you cut too low, you remove the plant's ability to produce food for itself, via Photosynthesis, and the plant will take longer to recover.

• Weed Control

Weed seeds will always blow in with the wind, but if you apply the four key strategies above, weed seeds should not be able to germinate in a healthy thick lawn environment.

In situations where weeds do become a problem, then spraying the weed area with a selective herbicide will quickly resolve the problem. Be careful to apply the correct herbicide for your type of grass.

Bindii (Jo-Jo) should be sprayed in July or August, before the prickly heads form. Foreign grasses and broadleaf weeds can be treated throughout the year, before they set seed.

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