

YOUR LAWN & GARDEN

Remedies For A Stressed-Out Lawn

by John Buechner

(NAPSA)—Good weather is meant for picnics, barbecues and spending time with family and friends outdoors. Life is carefree and it's time to relax. There's only one problem: the effect that seasonal stress has on the green lawn that will serve as the backdrop of memories for years to come.

Most homeowners cringe at the thought of having a dried-out, dull lawn due to the stress that summer heat puts on grass roots. How are they going to deal with the reality of it come the fall season? There's only one solution: proactive preparation.

This is a stressful time for lawns. Hot days in the early summer set the stage for a relentlessly hot, dry August and stressed-out turf. The high summer temperatures and lack of moisture cause most lawns to go dormant for several weeks, just in time for fall, leaving lawns desiccated and homeowners with a bad return on their investment.

Lawn Doctor, whose specialists help homeowners' lawns recover from stressful summer conditions with periodic inspections and treatments, recommends:

Mowing

- When mowing, raise the mowing height to no lower than 3 inches. This height helps drive the roots deeper into the soil so they're able to pick up moisture. And longer grass blades will shade the soil, reducing soil temperatures and heat stress.

Water And Aerate

- Consistently water the lawn



Reaching The Grass Roots—A little lawn care and some good friends can make the grass greener on your side of the fence.

with approximately 1 inch of water each week.

- Remember to aerate the lawn in the fall so grass roots have a better chance of getting oxygen for good growth.

Homeowners should be able to continue enjoying a lush, green lawn all season long. The best way to beat the heat is to maintain your lawn with proper mowing and watering, protecting your investment so your lawn looks beautiful and remains healthy throughout the season.

Changing your lawn care practices now is essential for beautifying your lawn and home. Continue to enjoy your time on your yard—without having to worry about summer stress.

For more helpful tips, log on to lawndoctor.com or call 1.800.4.LAWNDR (1.800.452.9637).

- *Mr. Buechner is the director of technical services for Lawn Doctor, Inc., one of the nation's leading lawn-care service providers.*