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Lawn Care Information

- **Fertilizing**—Fertilization in March through June is highly recommended, with a fertilizer that contains a mixture of quickly and slowly available nitrogen sources. Fertilizer applied before watering is allowed will not cause a problem for lawns because spring precipitation and watering, once it is allowed, will cause nutrients to be released into the turf.
- **Mowing**—Set mower height at 2 1/2 to 3 inches and mow at the same height all growing season. Mow often - avoid removing more than 1/3 of the grass height. Keep your mower blades sharp to avoid damaging the turf.
- **Aeration**—Core holes 2-3 inches deep provide the greatest benefit, but even shallower holes help to enhance water infiltration.
- **Weed control**—Pre-emergent herbicides for prevention of crabgrass, foxtail and other weeds recommended.
- **Watering**—Begin as soon as authorities permit in the spring. Watering less often means more efficient water use because of less loss to evaporation. It can also reduce the number of weeds that appear in the lawn. Do not apply all the water in a short period of time to avoid runoff. In most cases it is more effective to apply only a portion of the water and move the sprinkler to another section of the lawn. A sure sign that turf needs water is a wilted appearance. One symptom is “foot printing”, footprints on the lawn that do not disappear within an hour. This symptom is soon followed by actual wilting, where the turf takes on a grayish or purple-to-blue cast. If only a few such spots regularly appear in the same general location, spot water them to delay watering the entire lawn for another day or so. It is important that the turf not be allowed to become overly drought stressed between watering. This weakens the turf and makes it more susceptible to insect and disease damage and to weed invasion. Water 2.25 inches per week, between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- **Overseeding**— May be done in late fall or early spring with good results