

BEST LAWN CARE PRACTICES

QUICK REFERENCE

Keeping your landscape looking its best requires more than regular watering and mowing. Healthy lawns begin with healthy soil, and understanding factors like soil pH, aeration timing, and proper summer care can help your grass and plants thrive.

SOIL PH

Soil pH affects how well plants absorb nutrients, grow roots, and stay healthy. In Colorado, many soils are naturally alkaline, making soil testing an important first step before planting grass, trees, shrubs, or gardens. A professional or at-home soil test can identify pH, nutrient levels, soil texture, and other factors that influence plant health. If needed, soil amendments such as compost, lime, sulfur, or other organic materials can improve growing conditions, but maintaining healthy soil is an ongoing process rather than a one-time fix.



AERATION

Aerate your lawn when soil compaction limits water, air, and nutrients from reaching the roots. For most Colorado lawns with cool-season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue, the best time to core aerate is in the fall, though heavily used lawns may also benefit from a spring aeration. Aerate moist (not saturated) soil, use a core aerator that removes plugs rather than spikes, and follow with fertilization and overseeding for the best results. Proper aeration improves root growth, reduces runoff and compaction, and helps create a thicker, healthier lawn.



DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

No plants are completely safe from deer, but choosing deer-resistant varieties can make a big difference. Great options include annuals like marigolds and zinnias, perennials such as black-eyed Susan and Russian sage, and shrubs like lilac and potentilla. Trees such as spruce, fir, and serviceberry also tend to hold up well. For added protection, using sprays with strong scents or tastes—like mint, egg, or spices—can help keep deer away.



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GREEN LANDSCAPES



Sustainable landscaping combines efficient equipment, smart water management, and responsible recycling to reduce environmental impact. Eco-friendly practices such as propane-powered maintenance equipment, smart irrigation controllers, drip irrigation, cycle-and-soak watering, and recycling organic landscape materials help conserve water, lower emissions, reduce waste, and maintain healthy, attractive landscapes. These practices benefit both your property and Colorado's natural resources.

SUN SCALD



Sun scald is damage caused when plants or trees are exposed to sudden or intense sunlight, often after winter warm spells or the removal of nearby shade. It commonly affects tree trunks, leaves, and fruit, causing dead bark, discoloration, wilting, or increased insect activity. You can help prevent sun scald by wrapping young tree trunks, maintaining protective shade, planning pruning carefully, and avoiding sudden exposure of previously shaded plants to direct sunlight.

SUMMER LAWN CARE



Best practice is to start in spring by dethatching and aerating to help roots absorb water and nutrients. Once summer is in full swing, use key summer holidays as your timing to fertilize, and research the best weed control methods to use. Mow with sharp blades, avoid cutting more than a third of the grass blade height at a time, and water deeply in the early morning or evening to keep the lawn lush and healthy through the heat of the day.