

Week of July 10

## Taking the Lawn View

By Sage Sassafras

Yawn .... That hammock looks inviting. But not yet please.

You can just let the grass grow under your feet up to a point. Most of us just mow our lawns on a weekly basis and consider the job done. But here are a few tips to help assure a long-term beautiful lawn.

The biggest consideration is water. We've been lucky to have a lot of rainfall this summer. However, if we could control things, lawns are better off receiving less frequent but thorough waterings. In general a good watering once a week should do it. That way we encourage grass roots to develop downward into the soil (that hopefully has been organically amended) where they can take advantage of all the nutritional goodies. If you water frequently but less in depth the roots will remain shallow and dry out easier from sun and wind exposure.

As far as nutrition goes, a mid-summer feeding of compost tea is all you need. This isn't required if you have applied your compost in the spring, but it will assist the green up you may be looking for in addition to promoting good lawn health overall.

If you are in a windy site you may want to consider a wind break along your property to reduce wind exposure.

Two more tips: If you adjust your mower height to a higher position, you shade out the weeds, maintain moisture and again encourage longer root growth. All of these are essential to good lawn health. If you thatched your lawn this spring you may want to review the results and make sure you still have good aeration. A little raking throughout the summer helps grass take advantage of fertilizers and water.

For details on how to make compost tea and a more in depth look at lawn care we suggest [The Organic Lawn Care Manual](#) by Paul Tukey.

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