Tinnes Lawn Service

# Watering Your Lawn

There are several factors that influence the overall success you have at achieving a nice looking, healthy lawn, and while no two lawns are alike, the most important factor is water.

Each time you water your lawn, apply enough water to moisten as much of the root zone as possible. For example, if your roots extend 6 inches into the soil, you want to water to a 6" depth. Watering too deeply, especially on sandy soils, wastes water and allows it to percolate past the root zone.

Grass that grows on sandy soil must be watered more often than the same grass growing on clay or loam soils. Sandy soil requires more frequent irrigation with smaller amounts of water. Conversely, turf growing on a loamy-clay soil can be irrigated less frequently with larger quantities of water. Watering less often means more efficient water use because of less loss to evaporation. This also can reduce the number of weeds that appear on your lawn.

With most soils, do not apply all of the water in a short period of time. It is more effective to apply a portion of the water to each zone, applying the remainder in 2 or 3 back-to-back soakings, allowing the water to soak in rather than run off.

A hardened or toughened lawn, attained through less frequent, deep irrigation, often withstands minor drought and generally has fewer problems overall. It is important however, that the turf not be allowed to become overly drought stressed between waterings.

With our ever increasing demand for water and its shrinking supply it should not surprise you that the current philosophy on watering your lawn is "**let the grass species and health, soil conditions and weather conditions dictate irrigation practices, not the number of days between waterings.**" Essentially, this means water your lawn only when it needs it, not by the settings on your clock.

The best time to water your lawn is late evening into early morning. It is generally less windy and cooler at this time, resulting in less evaporation and more efficient use of water. Shady lawns and areas protected from the wind require less water over the growing season than more exposed turf. The same is true for spring and fall weather which reduce the need for watering as well.