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**Greenhouse, Garden Center, Nursery & Patio**

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**Lawn Maintenance**

* **Core Aeration** – Core aeration is recommended in the spring and again in the fall. It is best to have some moisture in the soil at the time of aeration. Core aeration is simple, cost-effective and very beneficial to your lawn. It helps to reduce soil compaction, promote root growth and reduce a buildup of thatch. Lawn aeration will greatly improve a lawn if scheduled on a yearly basis. Aeration allows water and fertilizer to get down to the root zone. It will help to reduce the thatch layer which blocks water, oxygen and fertilizer from penetrating to the root of the plant.
* **Fertilize** – 4 times a year

Early Spring – late March to mid-April

Late Spring – late May to mid-June

Mid-Summer – mid-July to mid-August

Fall – late September to mid-October

* **Watering**

Under normal circumstances – 1 inch of water per week

During consistent extreme heat – 1 ½ inches of water per week

Watering 2 times a week is adequate – under normal circumstances apply ½ inch of water

at each watering – in extreme heat apply ¾ inch at each watering.

Check your watering system by running a zone for your allotted time and measure your output by putting out some shallow containers. Adjust your time to allow for adequate water output.

Early morning watering is preferred, before 10 a.m. if possible.

* **Mowing –** Mower height 2 to 3 inches – keep blades sharp

**Note:** the most common fungal disease in lawn is Ascochyta Leaf Blight. It is caused by drought stress or inefficiencies in irrigation systems. Ascochyta is a fungus that lives on the leaf blade. It enters the leaf blade through the cut end (when you mow). It causes the blade to turn a straw color and wither to a point. It seems to coincide with periods of cool weather followed by hot, dry conditions. Fungicides are ineffective on Ascochyta – focus on irrigation system. Look for broken or tilted heads, adjust the spray/arc of your sprinkler stream to get more uniform coverage and water appropriately.

If you are trying to control and suppress any kind of fungal disease in your lawn it is recommended that you use an organically based fertilizer that is lower in slow release nitrogen.

Avoid using chemical, fast release nitrogen.