



# LAWN CARE TIPS

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When I have the chance to talk to people who are working from home now, the one thing they tell me most often is, “At least I have more time to take care of my lawn and work outside.”

So, let’s talk mowing. If you’re a homeowner, you know this weekly task can be time consuming and dreaded. After working with lawns for years — including those surrounding Globe Life Field — here are a few tips I’ve learned that might be of help to you.

- **CHECK YOUR MOWER.** Before you start mowing make sure your mower is operating properly. If your mower has ever stopped working when you are half finished mowing, you know how frustrating that is. If you suspect your mower needs attention, you’ll save time and money in the long run if you take time and have your mower serviced at a certified repair shop.
- **KEEP THOSE BLADES SHARP.** Check your mower blades often to see if they are sharp. Also, check for visible signs of wear. Ever worked really hard to get your lawn a dark green color and then two days after you mow it looks dry and off color? That’s probably due to a dull blade. A good rule of thumb is to change blades every three months depending on your mowing frequency.
- **GET THE HEIGHT RIGHT.** The height you mow your lawn can greatly affect the appearance and quality of your lawn. The one rule to follow is the 1/3 rule which means don’t remove more than a third of the leaf blade each time you mow. So if your lawn is at 3” mow it at 2.” If you miss a week of mowing because of rain or you are out of town don’t be afraid to mow it higher and gradually take it back to the proper height. The mowing heights are different for different varieties: Bermuda 1”-2” St Augustine 2.5”-3.”
- **PACE, NOT RACE.** The speed you mow your lawn affects the appearance of your lawn in two ways. Mowing your lawn too fast results in missed spots and scalping if you hit uneven areas in your lawn. Mowing your lawn too slow can cause scalped circles in your lawn from the mower being in one place too long. What’s a good speed? Imagine you’re taking a leisurely walk. That’s about 3 mph if you have a riding mower. Remember to enjoy the journey and look forward to the destination.
- **TO BAG OR NOT TO BAG?** My preference is to not use a bag because the leaf clippings provide extra nutrients back to the lawn. It’s like fertilizing every time you mow! Just make sure you blow any excess clippings. If you prefer to bag, that’s fine as well. It will give your lawn a cleaner appearance.

I hope these few tips will make your lawn work more enjoyable (and less of something you dread!).

