

Recommended Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Schedule for The Meadows Neighborhood Company

Nov - Feb	March	April	May - July	August	September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let it breath (help snow melt) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dead tree limbs • Replace missing mulch in beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Aerate, when ground softens • Weed & feed (grassy weeds) •Seed thin areas •Plant trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mow/trim/edge •Irrigate /water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mow,trim,edge •Irrigate /water •Insect control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Aerate! •Mow,trim,edge •Irrigate/water •Seed thin areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weed & feed (broadleaf) •Remove Autumn leaves

Aerating - Aerating is one of the most important and beneficial maintenance tasks for a healthy lawn. When soil is compacted it will cause your lawn to thin and eventually the root system may die. Aerating will break up the soil, making it easier for the root network to spread. Aerating also allows water and nutrients to reach the roots. Use a deep plug aerator for the best results. The best time to aerate lawns is in the autumn before the first frost and again in the spring.

Seeding - If your lawn is thin or you have bare spots lightly rake and sprinkle in some grass seed. The best time to seed is during early spring or early autumn.

Mowing - Mow no shorter than 3 inches and never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. A longer turf will shade the soil and promote a deep root network that absorbs and conserves water. Taller grass is also one of the best methods of weed control. Don't bag the clippings; leaving clippings recycles as much as 15% of the lawn fertilizer. Remember a sharp blade = a sharp lawn.

Weeds - Spring and autumn season weed control is easier and cheaper than fighting weeds after they pop up. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide in the spring to prevent grassy weeds like crabgrass. Apply broad leaf weed control in the autumn for a dandelion free spring. Weeds need sun, heat, and bare or weakened turf to sprout. A healthy tall lawn is the best defense against weeds.

Fertilize Fertilizing your lawn provides necessary nutrients and minerals. Follow the feeding schedule above and use a slow-release formula. Keep it light in the spring with a combination formula of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. In the autumn, apply a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to your lawn to help it through the dormant months. Don't forget the trees and shrubs!

Disease and Fungus - Let your lawn breath – it's dormant, not dead. Remove autumn debris and help the snow melt by spreading out snow piles and removing snow from cold spots. Prolonged periods of damp unaired turf are a breeding ground for lethal lawn disease and fungus.

Mites on Turf Grass - The best defense against a mite infestation are a healthy lawn. Mites thrive on drought stressed turf lawns. Make sure your lawn receives adequate water; this includes fall and winter watering as needed.

Watering/Irrigation - 1. Regularly check your irrigation system for uniform and efficient coverage. 2. Water deeper and less frequently. Deeper watering promotes deeper roots where it's moist even if the top soil dries out. 3. Keep the lawn at least 3-4 inches long. 4. Skip the lawn fertilizer in the extreme heat. 5. Water in the early morning, which will fight evaporation. Be sure to always follow the Town of Castle Rock published watering schedule.

Trees and Shrubs - Deciduous trees should have dead and diseased limbs removed in late March or April. New trees should be planted in the spring to allow plenty of time to establish prior to the winter.

A thriving healthy turf lawn going into the Winter ensures a healthy beautiful Spring lawn!