



# David's Do's and Don'ts for Growing a Healthy Lawn

## Starting a lawn

- Don't lay sod onto compacted soil!**
- Don't ever lay sod on top of existing weeds or grass!**
- Don't lay sod over large roots or septic tank covers!**
- Don't try to grow a lawn where water stands for days!**
- Don't try to grow a lawn in extreme shade! (under a healthy Southern Magnolia or Camphor Tree)**
- Don't try to start a permanent lawn with northern grass mixes! (Fescue, Bluegrass, Perennial Rye)**
- Do remove all weed debris before sodding.**
- Do till the ground before laying sod.**
- Do pay close attention to watering newly laid sod.**
- Do consider starting with grass plugs instead of sodding. (Generally much easier to establish)**

## Fertilizing

- Don't fertilize a Centipede lawn more than 3 times annually! (twice or even once is best)**
- Don't apply lime to a Centipede lawn! (Centipede likes a very acid soil condition)**
- Don't apply an even balance fertilizer to a lawn! (8-8-8, 10-10-10, etc...)**
- Don't apply fertilizers that are very high in nitrogen but low in potash to our lawns! (27-3-3, etc...)**
- Don't fertilize a dormant lawn!**
- Do apply a 15-0-15 with 50% water insoluble nitrogen to local lawns.**
- Do watch for Iron deficiency and apply supplemental Iron as needed. (Ironite, Milorganite, etc..)**
- Do apply a high potash fertilizer if you fertilize late in the year. (5-0-20 in September or early October)**

## Watering

- Don't use the time clock on a sprinkler system to water your lawn on a watering schedule!**
- Don't irrigate unless your lawn turns a "wilted gray-green color"!**
- Don't irrigate in late afternoon or at night!**
- Don't try to water your lawn by hand!**
- Do water deeply, applying 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water onto the lawn every time you irrigate. (measure!)**

## Mowing

- Don't mow your lawn while it is wet!**
- Don't bag your clippings! (unless you are harvesting weed seeds)**
- Don't ever scalp your lawn! (it is better to mow very high grass twice several days apart)**
- Do measure the height of your mower blade-set at these minimum heights (or above)-Centipede at 1 1/2 inches high, St. Augustine at 3", Bahiagrass at 3-4", Zoysia at 1-2", Bermuda at 1/2 to 1 inches.**
- Do sharpen mower blades at frequent intervals.**

## Lawn Problems

- Don't apply a fungicide every time dying areas appear-check for insect injury too! (Sod Webworm, Spittlebugs, Chinch Bugs, etc...)**
- Don't apply an insecticide simply because you see insects in the lawn! (most are not pests)**
- Do identify weeds, insects and diseases before trying to manage them.**
- Don't cover your lawn in sand! (doesn't hold moisture or nutrients, "layering effect" preventing good root growth, Nematode injury, etc...)**
- Do consider having your lawn aerated annually with a core type aerator.**