

The path to a healthy lawn is right under your feet.

Take a few easy steps now and enjoy it all summer long

There's no question that a beautiful lawn is an integral part of your home's environment. From a play area for your kids to a place for your pets to run, it's important to make your space work for the way you want to live.

But it's also essential to understand how to use our resources responsibly, so that your lawn and our planet remain healthy over the long term.

FOUR water smart basics

Following these basic lawn care tips are a great first step to help protect our environment and your lawn.

1 Don't apply too much water – it leads to shallow roots, which make it easier for pests and weeds to grow.

2 Water early in the morning to promote healthy root growth and avoid evaporation.

3 Adjust your sprinklers to avoid unnecessary watering of walkways, driveways, sidewalks and streets.

4 Install a moisture or rain sensor on your in-ground sprinkler system to ensure it doesn't operate after it rains.

Dry weather tip

When it's hot and dry, your lawn may wilt and turn brown or yellow. Don't worry, it's your lawn's natural defence kicking in – it will rejuvenate and return to green once it rains.

THREE mowing basics

1 Grasscycle! Leave your grass clippings on the lawn – they'll provide moisture and act as a natural fertilizer.

2 Mow high (2-3 in.) – this helps your lawn retain moisture and crowd out weeds.

3 Keep your mower's blade sharp – a clean cut allows grass to recover faster.



Region of Peel
Working for you

The path to a healthy lawn is right under your feet.

Take a few easy steps now and enjoy it all summer long

Composting tip

Compost is a great fertilizer for your lawn, providing important nutrients for plant growth. Raked over an existing lawn, it can be applied any time. Mixed in with soil, it's ideal for overseeding.

FOUR overseeding basics

1 Adding grass seeds to your lawn promotes lush and full grass. Remember: Look for native species of seed adaptable to our climate and resistant to disease and drought.

2 Compost or top soil can be added when you overseed.

3 Early spring or fall is the best time to overseed.

4 Keep seeds moist until they sprout – then follow the water smart basics.

Aeration basics

Best done in the fall, aerating your lawn involves driving spikes into the ground or using a core machine to remove small

plugs from the soil. The technique allows grass roots to better absorb water, air and nutrients. You should aerate:

1 When the ground is hard and compacted.

2 When thatch builds up – that's the tough mixture of dead grass and roots that accumulate at the soil surface.

3 When water isn't being absorbed during waterings.

Weed and pest tips

1 Hand removal and natural pesticides are the best way to rid your lawn of weeds and pests.

2 Corn gluten is an effective natural product that prevents weed seeds from sprouting. Don't apply while overseeding because corn gluten prevents all seeds from growing.

3 Nematode worms are a natural remedy for the most common type of lawn pest – grubs – and they leave other micro-organisms unharmed.

For additional advice and assistance, visit www.watersmartpeel.ca or call the Region of Peel at 905-791-7800, ext. 4409.

