

Imagine having a
Beautiful Back Yard
And the Time to Enjoy It!

6 Secrets to a
Lush, Green
Lawn

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Hi, I am Chris Dominy, Owner of BestYard.com.

Thank You for taking the time to read this guide. I have helped thousands of homeowners have lush, green lawns.

A beautiful, green lawn is a trophy you get to admire every day – and your neighbors do too!

Using a few of our professional secrets, the look and health of your lawn will improve dramatically.

You will be amazed at the difference!



Secret #1. Use Proper Mowing Techniques.

We have all had "BAD haircuts" and "GREAT haircuts".



Mowing is the haircut for your lawn.

Just as with you, the difference is in the attention to detail, the equipment, the training and skill of the person doing the cutting, and their technique.

Here are some of secrets to deliver a "Great Cut" every time.

- ✓ For the best cut use 21 - 30" mowers to avoid scalping, soil compaction, ruts, and damage done by big equipment.
- ✓ Sharpen blades every 6 – 8 hours of mowing time for better and crisper cuts. Dull blades tear the grass which creates ideal conditions for disease to creep in.
- ✓ Cut no more than the top 1/3 of the grass blade at a time to avoid stressing the grass.
- ✓ Cut at 3" to promote deep root development. Cutting shorter will stress the grass and cause shallower root development more prone to disease, weeds, and drought.
- ✓ Change your mowing patterns weekly to avoid ruts and soil compaction.
- ✓ Train your technician on proper techniques to produce a "Great Cut" every time. Think barber or beauty college training and certification for lawn care providers.
- ✓ Use a 23 point Quality Control Checklist that ensures everything looks its best, and "the dog doesn't get out".

Secret #2. Do Proper Fertilization 3X per year.

It is really important to understand that fertilizer is the "food" for your lawn. Fertilizer quality and price vary from "Junk Food" to "Good Food", just like human food.

Junk Food v's Healthy Food



Lawns require **"GOOD"** fertilizer to maintain health and vigor. A well-fertilized lawn will be better at preventing weed infestation as well as drought and disease.

Lawns that are thick and healthy can help the environment by producing oxygen, filtering and enhancing ground water quality, cooling the air during hot weather, trapping and absorbing urban dust and pollution.

Proper fertilizer techniques are:

- ✓ Fertilize three times per year:
 - ✓ Early Spring to get off to a healthy start;
 - ✓ Early Summer to prepare roots for summer stress.
 - ✓ Fall to prepare root system withstand the winter months.
- ✓ Apply the right fertilizer, at the right time, and in the right quantities to avoid burning your lawn.
- ✓ Use a high quality 85% & 65% slow release, phosphorous-free, granular fertilizer.

Secret #3. Use the Best Quality Fertilizer

Three advantages to 85 -65% slow-release nitrogen.

1. The nitrogen is made available to the plant slowly as the plant needs it, over an 8-12 week period.
2. Since the fertilizer is used gradually, very little is wasted.
3. It is safer for your lawn, you pets, your kids, and you.

Buyer Beware - False Advertising!

Some lawn care companies and DIY stores advertise slow release fertilizer, but when you check the fine print on their disclosure labels, it 5 to 10% or less slow release, or only one slow release, and the remainder fast release applications, **because it is cheaper.**

With a fast release granular, or worse a liquid fertilizer, it's either feast or famine for your grass since the fertilizer is released in 6 - 10 days, not 8 - 10 weeks. This is **"JUNK FOOD"** for your lawn.

Binge eating "JUNK FOOD" for a 6 - 10 days followed by starvation dieting 6 - 8 weeks is not good for you, or your yard!

If you decide to do it yourself, go to SiteOne Landscape Supply or a golf course supply store and get a high quality 65 - 85% slow release, granular fertilizer. This is the **"GOOD FOOD"** for your lawn which gives much better results. **You can see the difference!**



Other's Lawns



Our Lawns

Secret #4: Weed, Insect, and Disease Identification and Control are key!

A thick, healthy green lawn with deep roots is the best defense against weeds, insects, and disease. Proper mowing, fertilization, watering, and aerations promote healthy lawns.

- ✓ Preventative treatments can keep ugly weeds, insects, and disease out before they start.

“an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Do preventative treatments

- ✓ if your lawn has had previous problems,
 - ✓ if your lawn is not its healthiest, or
 - ✓ if there are infestations in the neighborhood.
- ✓ If you have weed, insect, or disease problems, then proper diagnosis and rapid treatment is critical before the problem becomes bigger and more expensive to correct.

There are some good over-the-counter products, and you could probably do 60 percent of what we do. The key is strictly following the directions and putting down the right product at the right rate. You may have access to the right product, but that depends on you making the proper diagnosis of the problem.

- ✓ We do not use over-the-counter products. We use **“professional use only”** products not sold in retail stores that require special licensing and certification by the State of Colorado to use and apply. These products are more effective with difficult-to-control weed, insects, and diseases and they deliver longer residual control than what is available to consumers.

Secret #5: Breathe new life into your lawn with aeration and overseeding

Aerations and overseeding are two secrets that many homeowners do not use, but that golf courses use to get and keep great looking grass.

Just like any other life form, if your grass can't breathe, it will die! Aeration involves perforating the soil with small holes that reduce soil compaction and thatch.

This allows air, water, fertilizer, and new seed to penetrate down to the roots much more effectively to enhance deep root development, Reduce water run-off and better withstand drought, insect, and disease stress.



- ✓ **Colorado State University recommends both a Spring and a Fall aeration.**
- ✓ Before doing aerations be sure to water the lawn so it is damp to a depth of 3 - 4" so that the machine can pull "good plugs" of grass. If the soil is very dry and hard the machine will not be able to penetrate the soil for good results.
- ✓ **Doing overseeding while doing aerations are a good way to build the density of your lawn if it is a little thin, and to keep thick lawns very thick.**

Secret #6: Irrigate intelligently

A great looking lawn and garden requires the right amount of water.

Watering your lawn sounds obvious, but a lot of homeowners overlook this step and expect Mother Nature to take care of it for them! Start with a rain gauge to keep track of how much water your lawn is receiving from rainfall, and supplement with an irrigation system or timed sprinklers.

Here are tips to water properly.

- ✓ **The Right Amount.** Water your lawn when it needs it. Pay attention to temperature, sunlight, wind, and natural precipitation patterns in your area. Lawns generally require from 1 to 2.25 inches of water per week to thrive. Less is needed on cool or shady days and more in hot sunny summer days.
- ✓ **The Right Time of Day.** Water your lawn in the early morning while the air is still cool. Afternoon watering causes water to evaporate too quickly, while evening watering promotes extended leaf wetness and the spread of disease.
- ✓ **The Right Amount of Time.** Water your lawn fewer times to a deep of 4 – 6" to encourage a healthy root system. Do not do frequent short and shallow watering which promotes surface root growth, not deep root growth.

It is also critical to keep your manual or automatic system tuned to get the most from your system on every watering opportunity but not waste water. Industry experts estimate that 30-50% of water is wasted due to poorly tuned and poorly designed systems. Do you find that your system is spraying a lot of concrete driveways and sidewalks? Does your system spray shrubs and plants instead of using more efficient drip irrigation that saves water?

Here are tips to keeping you manual or automatic sprinkler system tuned.

- ✓ **Spring.** When activating a system, check every component, tune minor adjustments to heads, set your clock for correct spring watering schedule. If you have damage due to freezing then make the repairs.
- ✓ **Summer.** Hot summers stress your lawn. What was green can turn brown quickly due to the longer and hotter sunny days. The program on your controller needs to be changed from its spring setting to provide the proper watering. Chances are that your turf has matured and shrubs and flower have grown so that your heads are now too low. Your system needs to be checked for crooked or clogged heads, broken lines, leaks, and proper coverage by your heads.
- ✓ **Winter.** Properly closing your system includes using compressed air to blow out the water from your lines and components to protect from freezing. Be sure to turn the water off inside, set both the inside and outside valves to open, and drain your bleeder lines. Wrap all outside exposed pipes and component to protect from freeze damage. If there is damage, then make detailed notes for repair the next spring.

Because this is a technical and complex process subject to unintended mistakes and damage, most homeowners choose a professional, licensed technician for this task.

Extra Tip: To get the Best Yard in your neighborhood, the envy of your neighbors, use BestYard.com

OF COURSE we would love to care for your yard.

BUT whether we provide for your yard or not, we want it to be the best it can be.

THEREFORE we want to provide you the best professional advice for your lawn care.



THIS IMPROVES our neighborhoods, community, and environment.

The best clients for BestYard.com Professionals are knowledgeable clients. For this reason we provide not only the services but also the information you need to keep your lawn healthy. Please explore our ever expanding list of resources and tips at BestYard.com.

The Denver area is a great place to cultivate and maintain a lush lawn and garden.

It may be amusing to mow your lawn every weekend, as in Hollywood movies, but the truth is many people don't have enough time to spend with their family, friends, sports, or rest after hours of exhausting work, let alone stand hours in the sun mowing, weed – pulling or fertilizing.

If you have some items on your “to-do” list and want to move some to someone else’s “to-do” list call 720-851-7550 or click BestYard.com to discuss your lawn care needs or request your FREE lawn care quote.