

THE ESSENTIAL

Lawn Care Guide

A practical guide to a healthier lawn — every season

By Timothy | TurfProTip

Over 20 years in high-profile turf management

turfprotip.com

WELCOME

Good turf doesn't happen by accident

Most lawn problems can be avoided by getting four key areas right: mowing, fertilising, irrigation, and pest and weed management.

This guide covers the fundamentals that apply to most home lawns and will help you maintain a healthier, more resilient lawn throughout the year.

KNOW YOUR LAWN

Warm Season vs Cool Season

All lawns fall into one of two categories. Knowing yours makes every other decision easier.

Warm Season	Cool Season
Thrives in heat and full sun	Remains greener through winter
Requires less water once established	Prefers mild temperatures
Slows down during winter	Requires more water during hot weather
Recovers quickly in warmer months	Can struggle in extended heat

MOWING

The most important thing you can do

Mowing is the single most impactful lawn maintenance activity. Get it wrong and everything else becomes harder.

The One-Third Rule

Never remove more than one-third of the leaf blade in a single mow. Cutting too much at once stresses the lawn and opens the door to weeds, disease and poor recovery.

Mowing Frequency

Season	Frequency
Spring & Summer	Every 5–10 days
Autumn	Every 10–14 days
Winter	As required

Pro Tip: Keep mower blades sharp. A clean cut promotes healthier turf and reduces plant stress.

FERTILISING

Feed it right, feed it regularly

Just like any living plant, lawns require regular nutrition to stay healthy and perform at their best. Three applications per year is a solid baseline for most home lawns.

Simple Fertiliser Schedule

Spring — Apply a quality lawn fertiliser to kick off the growing season.

Early Summer — A second application supports active growth through the heat.

Early Autumn — A final application before winter helps the lawn recover and prepare.

Signs Your Lawn Needs Fertiliser

Pale green or yellowing colour

Slow or stunted growth

Thin or patchy areas

Poor recovery from wear and traffic

IRRIGATION

Water smarter, not more

Overwatering and underwatering are both common — and both cause problems. The goal is deep, infrequent watering that encourages roots to grow down.

Water Deeply, Not Daily

Deep watering builds drought tolerance, improves root development, and creates a healthier overall lawn. Shallow daily watering keeps roots near the surface and makes the lawn dependent.

Best Time to Water

Early morning is ideal. Watering during the heat of the day increases evaporation. Watering late at night can promote disease.

Signs Your Lawn Needs Water

Footprints remain visible after walking on the lawn

Grass develops a dull or grey-green appearance

Leaf blades begin to fold or wilt

WEEDS & PESTS

Prevention over cure

Weeds are usually a symptom of an unhealthy lawn rather than the root cause. A thick, healthy lawn naturally crowds out weeds by competing for space, water and nutrients.

Common Causes of Weed Problems

- Cutting the lawn too short
- Poor or inconsistent nutrition
- Bare or thin turf areas
- Soil disturbance or compaction

Warning Signs of Pest Damage

- Brown patches appearing suddenly
- Birds digging persistently in the lawn
- Turf lifting easily from the soil
- Areas of thinning grass without obvious cause

If you suspect insect activity, seek professional advice before applying treatments. Correct identification is essential for successful control.

SEASONAL CHECKLIST

Your year at a glance

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
✓ Apply fertiliser	✓ Monitor moisture	✓ Apply fertiliser	✓ Avoid traffic on wet lawns
✓ Increase mowing frequency	✓ Watch for pests	✓ Repair damaged areas	✓ Remove debris
✓ Inspect irrigation	✓ Maintain mowing	✓ Reduce mowing frequency	✓ Prepare for spring
✓ Address winter damage	✓ Avoid drought stress		

NEED HELP?

Every lawn is different

If you're unsure about your lawn type, fertiliser requirements, irrigation scheduling or pest management — I'm here to help.

Free Lawn Assessment Send me a photo of your lawn, your suburb, and any concerns you have. I'll help identify potential issues and point you in the right direction.

turfprotip.com Visit the website to submit your details and get personalised advice directly from me.

A healthier lawn starts with understanding what your lawn actually needs.

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