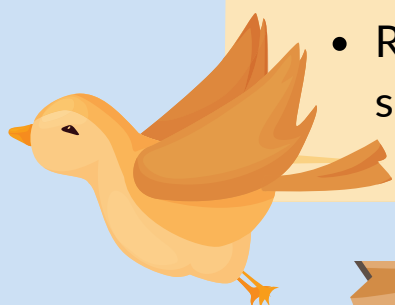


Tips For a Better Looking Lawn

from our friends at UT-TSU Extension Shelby County

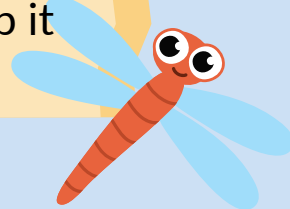
REGULAR MOWING

- Mow often, remove no more than 1/3 of leaf blades each time.
- Set mower at appropriate cutting height.
- Change mowing direction on each cutting.
- Reduce potential for disease by maintaining sharp mower blade -sharpen at least once/yr.



FERTILIZING

- Fertilize based on soil test recommendations.
- Do not fertilize when the grass is wet.
- If you have a warm season grass (Bermuda, Zoysia), do not fertilize with high nitrogen fertilizer after middle of September.
- Water your lawn after fertilization, to keep it from burning.



LIMING

- Do not apply lime without having your soil tested.
- You should have your soil tested every three years.
- Most lawn grasses need a soil pH between 6.0-6.5
- Lime helps keep the nutrients in your soil balanced.

WATERING

- Actively growing turf needs about 1-2 inches of water a week based on your soil type.
- Water early in the morning to help cut down on diseases and water lost through evaporation.
- Do not water in the middle of the day.
- Remember, one deep watering is better than several shallow waterings.



DETHATCHING

- Improve the soil surface
- Relieve compact soil
- Improve drainage
- Help control thatch
- Warm season grasses should be dethatched in late spring or early summer (late April or any time in May).
- It is best not to dethatch in the middle of the summer.

