

# SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

## What is lawn dormancy?

Dormancy is a natural seasonal process of any lawn. But due to increasingly hot and dry summer weather conditions in Canadian communities, summer dormancy is becoming more and more common. Since all grass needs water to ensure good health and vibrancy, a lack of natural precipitation means lawns may require more watering than usual. A brown and straw-like lawn does not necessarily mean your lawn is dead; it may just be dormant. Dormancy is like hibernation for your lawn caused by lack of water and essential nutrients. You can protect against drought damage with drought tolerant grasses like Manderley Less Water Sod and Seed products as they require up to 50% less irrigation and stay active up to a month and a half longer in periods without water than a conventional lawn.

## Abbreviated watering tips:

1. Remember to always keep track of precipitation. Monitor natural precipitation and always observe your lawn before applying water. If it appears lush and green you may be able to reduce your watering frequency.
2. A Manderley Less Water lawn will thrive on to half the amount of water as a conventional lawn to maintain green cover.
3. Water early in the morning whenever possible, to maximize the effect of the application. If you can't water in the morning, your best alternative is the evening, but be aware that it can promote fungus growth due to moisture collecting over night.
4. For more information see our watering guide.



## Here are a few tips to prevent against further damage to your lawn during dormancy:

**Watering:** Continue to irrigate your lawn to prevent your plants from reaching dormancy. When plant activity effectively shuts down, you no longer reap any of the environmental benefits of a lawn, while also making your property more susceptible to damage - even fire risk! Applying water to a dormant lawn will bring on a gradual green-up, or return to normalcy - but in cases where there are watering restrictions or outright bans, you may need to wait for mother nature to lend a hand.



**Stay off your lawn:** Reduce the amount of foot traffic and disturbances to the grass to give your lawn its best chance at survival against unfavourable weather conditions.

**Mowing:** Do not mow your lawn if it has gone dormant. To minimize stress, mow only as needed, early in the morning or late in the evening.



**Fertilizing:** Never fertilize a dormant lawn. While an application of a fertilizer high in potassium can help reduce water loss in periods of drought, fertilization is best used as a preventative tool as opposed to the solution to dormancy.

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## Strengthen by overseeding

The cooler temperatures in Spring and Fall provide optimal growing conditions to overseed your lawn. Overseed with Manderley seed products in the spring to repair winter damage, and strengthen a thinning lawn. This will improve your lawn's health and protect against the emergence of weeds. Overseeding again in the fall helps to repair summer damage from pets, weather, and wear and prepare your lawn for winter ensuring a greener, thicker lawn come spring.

### Steps to overseeding your lawn:

1. Mow the area
2. Rake to remove thatch
3. Aerate your soil to reduce compaction
4. Add Manderley premium lawn and garden soil to the areas to improve soil tilth and germination conditions
5. Apply one of Manderley's premium line of seed blends by using your hand or a broadcast spreader
6. Ensure to water-in the seed and irrigate daily over the first three weeks to ensure optimal germination

## Aerate for healthy soil

Compacted soil prevents water, air and nutrients from reaching grass roots. Annual lawn aeration and topdressing with Manderley lawn and garden soil products will help rejuvenate your lawn for the growing season. Fall is the best time to aerate your lawn. It will let oxygen, water and fertilizer reach the grassroots more easily, promoting a healthier lawn. The ideal time to aerate is right before fertilizing and overseeding, creating channels in the soil that will allow nutrients to reach the roots where the nourishment can be most effective.

## Proper mowing keeps turfgrass healthy and beautiful

Bluegrass should be mowed at a height of between 1.5"-3.5" and Fine Fescue from 3"-4" for optimal plant growth. Ensure your mower is properly set to never remove more than one-third of the leaf any time you mow. Don't let grass grow so tall that it falls over. The taller the grass, the less dense the lawn and the higher chance of disease and weed prevalence in your lawn.

## Choosing the right fertilizer

How much fertilizer your lawn needs depends on soil fertility and the growth you want. We recommend using Manderley Root Starter fertilizer with newly installed grass and following-up with Manderley's 3-Step Fertilizer Program throughout the growing season. This seasonal package is specially formulated to deliver the ideal mix of nutrients to keep grass healthy and looking its best throughout its lifecycle.

**Spring Formula:** A nitrogen boost to stimulate rapid green-up and Spring activity after winter dormancy.

**Maintenance Formula:** Designed to see your lawn through the tough summer months, this balanced blend minimizes water loss, reduces the impact of warm weather-related stress and helps plants remain active and retain their green colour.

**Fall Formula:** Designed to prepare your lawn for the harshness of Canadian winter. When applied during fall months, this blend will improve your lawn's winter hardiness and reduce the risk of complications in the Spring.

### Fertilizing Tips:

1. Always water-in the fertilizer to prevent burning.
2. Never apply fertilizer to wet grass leaves, especially during extreme heat.
3. Using a mechanical dispenser is the best way to ensure that the fertilizer is spread evenly, to avoid burning and to optimize results.
4. Always follow the application instructions on the bag as too much fertilizer will damage your lawn.



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