

Look Out for Melt Out Fungus: Melt Out is a lawn fungus that can develop in late spring to mid-summer. The main cause of Melt Out is drastic temp and weather changes, but drought stress and mowing too short will also increase your chances of getting Melt Out. Melt Out appears as straw-colored patches in your lawn and can become active along mow lines (as pictured below). So what can you do if you have Melt Out?

- Many people assume Melt Out spots are dry spots and begin overwatering them. DON'T! This will actually make the fungus worse. Let the yellow spots dry out for 2 days, then return to watering as normal.
- Increase mow height to 3 inches and make sure mower blades are sharp.
- After making these adjustments, if you are still seeing Melt Out, we can apply a granular fertilizer to affected areas during your next lawn application to help clear up the fungus.



Watering Guidelines based on Temps: Water in the cool hours of the morning to reduce evaporation. A general guideline is: 70° - 78°: water 4 times a week; 78° - 86°: water 4-6 times a week; 86° and above: water 5-7 times a week. If it's regularly in the mid to high 90s or above, water every day and you may need to add in some additional evening watering sessions.

Water for Your Soil Type: If you live in North Spokane, the Valley, Liberty Lake, or Post Falls and have sandy or rocky soil, you should water frequently but not deeply (about 15-20 minutes per zone). If you are in CDA, Hayden Lake, or South Hill and have clay or loamy soil, you can do longer and a little less frequent watering sessions (20-30 minutes per zone). Check your lawn regularly and make adjustments as needed.

Raise Mow Height for Summer: For the summer, you should be mowing at a height of 3 inches. Raising your mow height during the summer has several benefits. It shades your lawn's root system and prevents grass from drying out too quickly, reducing the amount of water lost to evaporation, which helps keep your lawn from getting heat and drought stressed. It also helps to prevent Melt Out fungus.

Adjust Sprinklers as Needed: Sprinkler heads shift slightly over time and need to be adjusted semi-regularly. Check to make sure your sprinklers are getting full water coverage over your entire lawn but that you aren't watering the concrete. Adjust your sprinkler heads if you are seeing dry spots in your lawn or water puddling on concrete.

Look Out for Insect Damage: Insect damage usually appears as large brown spots in your lawn, the grass can look matted or dead, and it comes up easily if you pull on it. You may see some small bugs in the patches if you look closely. If you see this, give us a call ASAP, and we can treat your lawn with a lawn pest control app. Insect damage is more likely to occur in stressed lawns, so make sure to use best watering and mowing practices.

Deep Water Trees and Shrubs: Your trees and shrubs get water from sources like rain and your sprinklers. However, it's important to deep water them, especially when we have hot temps and little rain. Aim to get a few deep watering sessions in throughout the summer. The easiest way to deep water trees and shrubs is just to turn your hose on to a light stream and leave that at the base of each tree or shrub for several minutes.

Keep Lawn Clear of Items: Your lawn is a great source of fun during the summer; enjoy it! But to avoid damaging your lawn, make sure to clear all items such as toys, pools, BBQs, and furniture off of your lawn regularly. If possible, clear everything off of your lawn every evening when you are done enjoying it! Leaving items on your lawn, especially in hot weather, can cause damage to grass and encourage drought stress.

If you have any further questions, you can call our office, ask your tech, or message us on Facebook!