



## Four golden rules for dealing with winter weeds

LAWN mowing is probably the most important aspect of good turf management, because it has to be carried out on a very regular basis, especially in the active growing season (August - April)(Australia).

Lawns left uncut or only cut when the grass is long will develop all sorts of problems, including weeds and thatch build up.

Lawns should not be watered every day, except for newly laid lawns or lawns which have undergone renovation.

Established, healthy lawns only need to be watered two to three

times a week.

A good soaking, say 30-40 minutes twice a week is far better than a 10 minute dip every day.

This is because it allows the water to penetrate the soil which in turn encourages a deep root system which then protects the roots from drying out in the hot Perth summers.

Turf roots can reach a depth of up to 45centimetres when trained properly.

This practice will keep weeds in check as well because the root system on most weeds are no longer than say 7cms (3 inches).

Fertilising is also very important because without food and nutrients your lawn will become extremely sick, leaving itself wide open to all types of pest and disease problems.

The best way to feed your lawn is little and often.

The average size front lawn in Perth of 100square metres should take no more than 5 kilograms every 6-8 weeks.

Too much fertilizer can also burn the leaf and stems, not to mention the run off down the drains.

If you notice the lawn getting patchy, do not put extra fertilizer on the

spots because that will only make matters worse.

Sort of like rubbing salt into a wound.

Weeds and pests are a common problem in most lawns due to the fact that they are either competing with the lawn for food, or directly feeding off the lawn itself.

When lawns are patchy with uneven growth, it provides a perfect place for weeds to grow as they have no grass to inhibit them and left unchecked, they can reseed and flourish.

Weeds are just plants which are growing where they are not wanted.



**Green grass:** The winter months are a great time for the lawn to grow.