

that dies during the guarantee period. Also, the nursery must water and weed the areas they landscape.

To help meet these three demands, wood chips were spread 4 inches deep around trees and shrubs after planting and the root area was thoroughly soaked. Results of the project show that the need for watering is cut by 60 to 70% and weed growth by 90%. With the current water ban in much of the Northeast, mulching with wood chips will probably increase this year.

From fertilizer to mulch, wood chips are catching on, not just as a means for disposing of wood wastes but also as a profitable sideline enterprise in themselves.

Vary Mowing Height According to Grass Species

In most respects, warm season grasses, such as bermuda, zoysia, or buffalograss, require different management than do cool season bluegrass or fescue lawns, according to Jim Nighswonger, Kansas State University extension landscape architect.

He points to mowing height as an example. "Warm season grasses prefer a mowing height of 1 to 1½ inches, while cool season grasses grow best when mowed to 2½ to 3 inches," Nighswonger explains.

Bermuda and zoysia lawns benefit most from fertilization in early May and July, while cool season lawns respond best to March and early September fertilization, he notes.

In Kansas, Nighswonger advises, 1½ to 2½ inches of water applied every 10 to 14 days provide the right moisture conditions. A simple water gauge, such as a coffee can placed near the sprinkler, can measure approximate applications of water.

Buffalograss, an extremely drought-resistant species, requires even less water. Nighswonger reports that buffalograss is preferred in the western one-third of Kansas if irrigation water is not available.



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