

## **July - September**

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The hot summer months are the most active growing season for lawns due to the high temperatures and frequent rains. During these months, it is particularly important to match your mowing and watering habits with the requirements of your lawn. If you have a St. Augustine lawn, mow at a height of 3.5 to 4 inches. Mowing lower than this can injure your lawn.

Summer is also a time when some of our most damaging lawn pests are active. Chinch bugs and sod webworms are two damaging insects that prefer high temperatures. One of the best ways to avoid Chinch bug damage to your property is to avoid extreme drought stress. Chinch bugs begin feeding in hot and dry locations of lawns. If you irrigate your lawn twice a week in the absence of rain you should have little trouble with Chinch bug injury.

If you are experiencing regular afternoon rains, make sure to adjust your irrigation. Your lawns do not require water more than twice a week in the summer. Too much water is the primary reason for many weed and fungal diseases in lawns and shrub beds.