

# Houston Drought: Lawn Mowing Tips

## Adjust Mower Height

It's important to adjust your mowing height during the summer months. Raise the cutting blades higher than normal, so that you're leaving at least 3 1/2 to 4 inches of turf.

**Longer turf will protect the roots of the grass from the hot summer sun.** Too much direct sun on the root system can encourage yellow dead looking areas and can burn the lawn.

## When To Mow

**During the summer months, you'll want to mow less often. Probably every other week or as needed is fine. During drought conditions, this schedule may be reduced further.**

Cut during the cooler morning hours or in the evenings, to avoid the high heat and high stress to both the lawn and yourself. Reducing dehydration and the risk of stroke are important health factors to consider.

## Sharp Blades

**Having your mower blades sharp is an important part of cutting grass properly.** Dull blades tear the grass instead of making a nice clean cut.

Tearing promotes browning after you mow, and leaves the grass more vulnerable to heat stress, diseases and fungus.

If unsure or uncomfortable doing sharpening a lawnmower blade yourself, hire this job out. It will be money well spent.

## Traffic Control

An important part of summer lawn care is managing the amount of traffic your lawn gets during times of heat stress.

**It's a good idea to keep foot traffic to a minimum when the lawn is struggling through the summer conditions.**