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Its Time for Weed and Seed.

By Chris Vasecka

Late August and early September give home owners two great opportunities for lawn care. The first opportunity is early fall seeding. Temps are perfect at the end of August to germinate new seed without it being too hot. As temps cool in September, the worry of weed invasion is very low. When seeding bare areas in the lawn, make sure that the areas are prepped before seeding. You want to insure good seed to soil contact. Use a rake to loosen up the soil and remove dead grass and debris. Apply starter fertilizer before seeding. Rake into the soil and then apply seed. Once seeded, rake it lightly into the soil. Once you are finished with seeding make sure the soil and the seed are pressed together. If it is a small area just step it down. If it is a large area, use a roller or drive over it with your lawn tractor. This will ensure your seed will not float away and will speed up the germination. Make sure the new seed is staying wet through the heat of the day. Watering at night is not necessary. In 2-3 weeks you should have full germination.

Mid September also provides an excellent time for broad leaf control. Broad leaf plants such as dandelions are bi-annual. Plants germinant from June-August. These plants will survive the winter. The following spring they will become active, develop a flower, release the new seeds in mid May to early June and then die finishing their biannual cycle. All of the plants that will produce a yellow flower in the spring are currently live in your yard now. Spraying for broadleaf weeds now should eliminate the need to spray for them in the spring. Good luck with seeds and weeds.

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HOT SPOT ALERT!!

Is it the Design, Pressure, Equipment? or Run Time?

As we have gone through 6 weeks without a significant rainfall your irrigation system has began to show its flaws. Hot spots as most people call them are showing up every where. The symptoms are easy to diagnose as your grass withers away. Determining the actual cause is the difficult part. First thing to look at is equipment. Is the timer working properly? Are the sprinklers rotating or are they clogged? If these two items don't solve the problem, then we need to look at the design and layout. Your sprinklers should reach the sprinkler next to it. If it is not, you may have to put a larger nozzle in it. The other problem may be the spacing between sprinklers. For rotor sprinklers with a single stream, this spacing should be no more than 35'. If it is more than that, you may need to have some sprinklers moved and may need to add more to make the coverage better. If the streams are droopy or if the sprinklers are having a difficult time rising to full height, pressure may be the problem. You may need a booster pump to help increase your pressure. If everything seems to be operating well, then you may need to add more time to that zone in your timer. Some of the diagnoses can be difficult and solving the problems could mean some extensive redesign. Now is the perfect time to call **Use Your Water Right.com** for a sprinkler check up and solve these problems before the end of this season. You can call us at 320-310-4241 or email us at info@useyourwaterright.com

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Happy Writing

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