

Creating a Resilient Lawn

Instant lawn = long term headache

Typical installation

- tilling the soil
- working in amendments
- rolling the soil
- laying down sod

Results

- damages soil structure
- reduces ability of water and oxygen to travel through soil
- adds excessive levels of organic matter and nutrients
- injures and kills soil biota
- thatch develops

Traditional installation creates a mirage of a perfect lawn that soon fades when nature begins to repair the damage

Restrictions – governmental and HOA

- Restrictions on lawn sizes
- Restrictions on phosphorus fertilizers
- Restrictions on pesticide applications, especially where children are in contact with turf
- Restrictions on outdoor irrigation
- Requirements to use drought-tolerant turfgrass

A pathway to resiliency

Types of lawn

- Sod vs. seed
- Additional groundcovers

Site preparation

- Weed removal
- Soil conditioning

Water

- Usage
- Irrigation choices

Lawn maintenance

- Mowing
- Weeding
- Fertilizing
- Pesticides

Incentives

- Subsidies or rebates for reducing or replacing lawns
- Subsidies or rebates for upgrading irrigation equipment to high-efficiency systems

Dos and don'ts of lawn care

- **Don't** add fertilizer unless a soil test reveals a significant deficiency in some key nutrient
- **Do** use a mulching lawnmower
- **Don't** use pesticides of any stripe: no fungicides, no herbicides, no insecticides
- **Do** remove weeds by hand when you first see them, especially noxious weeds or those that spread aggressively
- **Don't** fall under the spell of heavily marketed miracle products. They don't work.

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