

Turf Lawn Tips for Solterra

These are recommendations from the Schultz Industries for care of the turf grass lawns with assistance from area lawn and garden experts.

- Solterra Landscape Committee

Fertilizing

Fertilizing is best done 3-4 times a year with any of the commercially available lawn mixes. Use a weed and feed in the late spring and a winterizer blend in October. A normal fertilizer can be used either once in July or once in June and once in August. Scotts or Bayer both make great products for the homeowner market. Make sure to follow all label instructions, especially for the calibration settings on the spreader.

Weed Control

Pesticide labels must be followed. It is against the law to ever apply any pesticide in a manner not specified on the label. It is also bad for your landscape and the health of the environment and your neighbors. Of all the aspects of landscape maintenance, pesticide application may be the one thing to leave to a trusted landscape maintenance company and not be done by homeowners themselves.

For weed control in landscaped beds or sidewalk/driveway cracks you want to use a product that contains glyphosate (Round Up). Take extra precaution when using this chemical, as it has the ability to kill any plant material that it touches. Do not use Round Up or similar product in turf, as it will kill the turf. Several other non-selective herbicides are available for use in landscape plantings. These include: Diquat (Reward™), pelargonic acid (Scythe™), glufosinate (Finale™ and others), and many "natural products" such as vinegar and botanical oils.

Turf weeds are best controlled by growing a really healthy lawn. A lawn that is adequately watered without being overwatered as well as fertilized properly will naturally fend off most broadleaf weeds. If broadleaf control is needed look for a product that contains 2,4-D. Once again Scotts and Bayer both make products designed for the homeowner that work well. When it comes to spraying any chemical in the turf, I always say less is more. Do one application on the lower end of the recommended rate and wait a few days to see how well it works, and then come back with a second application if needed. Grassy weeds, like crabgrass, are best controlled by hand, removing them and then seeding the areas where they were.

Mowing

We never mow grass below 3", anything lower than that and you risk stressing the turf. When the summer gets hotter you can even raise the mowing deck up to 3.5"-4.0" Continue mowing the grass until it is dormant. The last cut should be 2-2.5 inches to prevent matting in the winter.