

Approximate Full Sun Water Requirements

	St. Augustine (inches)	Bermuda (inches)	Zoysia (inches)
Jan*	1.5	0.0	1.0
Feb*	2.1	0.0	1.8
March*	2.2	0.0	2.1
April	3.1	3.0	2.9
May*	4.2	4.2	3.8
June	4.9	4.9	4.7
July	5.8	5.9	5.8
Aug	6.8	6.9	6.4
Sept	4.9	6.2	4.6
Oct*	3.4	2.8	3.1
Nov*	2.4	0.0	2.2
Dec*	1.5	0.0	1.0

Monthly water needed is the total of rainfall plus irrigation. Above rates are full sun, full Shade is approx one half. *Average rainfall should suffice for these months.

Problems associated with improper irrigation:

Chinch Bug Damage (underwatering)

Chinch bugs prefer hot, dry environments. Dry weather enhances survival of chinch bug nymphs and eggs by reducing the incidence of disease. Drought-stressed lawns are more susceptible to chinch bug injury. Chinch bugs will move from the thatch layer of grass seeking moisture from the blades. Pesticide control is limited. Proper irrigation is crucial to Chinch bug population control.

Brown Patch (too much water)

Disease develops most rapidly when air temperatures are between 75 and 85 F and wet conditions are persistent. Disease generally subsides when air temperatures rise above 90 F. Disease develops when moisture is allowed to sit on the grass for 6 hours or more. Common problem associated with night time watering. Most active in the Fall, although minor infections can be present in the Spring. Can be treated with fungicides.

Mowing

Before mowing, be sure the mower blade is sharp. A dull blade will bruise and tear the grass tips, and they will eventually turn brown on the tips. Mow when the grass is dry to eliminate shredding and whipping of the grass blades. Never mow when dew is present.

Base the mowing on the growth rate of the grass rather than on a set time schedule. Never mow more than 1/3 of the grass blade. With this small amount of grass being cut, the clippings won't have to be bagged. Leaving the clippings on the grass will actually return the nutrients to the soil. Contrary to popular belief, clippings left on the lawn are not a significant contributor to thatch.

As the summer progresses and the temperature increases, raise the mower cutting height by 1/2". The grass will be stronger and better able to survive drought when it is mowed at a higher cut. It will also discourage germination of weed seeds and insulate the soil against the drying heat.

Spring and Fall, mow about 1/2" lower, to increase air circulation which will help control disease. Never scalp a lawn by mowing outside the lower recommended range.

Grass Type	Height Range	Optimal Height
Common Bermuda	2" to 3"	2.5 inches
Hybrid Bermuda	1" to 3"	2.5 inches
St. Augustine	2.5" to 3.5"	3.0 inches
Zoysias	2" to 3"	2.5 inches

Watering and Mowing Guide For Austin and Surrounding Areas



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