

CLEAN CUT LAWNIS

Landscape Management



Dear John,

A Hot Topic

The Heat is on!

Some of you may be asking,

"So how long is this TURF TRANSITION supposed to take?" The answer is, a little longer this year because of the false starts and late start summer had. (Please don't complain about that and be grateful!) We are now in July and the summer Bermuda should be taking over.

The turf areas in your communities should be a consistent green throughout. Not quite as dark as winter rye, but clearly there should be more green than yellow and never look like dried out straw.



Now that the famous AZ heat is here to stay a while, (well into the football season...Go Cards!), irrigation issues will be exposed a whole lot faster than during the cooler winter months. (Last winter made many "faux" irrigation techs look good.) Summer temperatures around here serve as a reality check for some irrigators and we can't always depend on our talent at "Rain dancing" here in the desert. You may not be satisfied with the way your turf areas are looking right now but with a few minor adjustments it can improve dramatically. From our experience with desert turf, the following issues contribute greatly to summer transition problems.

- Insufficient Watering
- Weed Control
- Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners (Unsolicited donations from pet owners is not sufficient)
- Insufficient Aeration
- Excessive Shading from Trees
- Improperly Adjusted Sprinkler Heads

There are simple solutions to each of these problems that don't involve wasteful over-watering and a sky-rocketing summer water bill. You want to keep as much "green" in the community's bank account as you do on the turf. Listed below are a few basic strategies that should help your Bermuda grass Go Green:

- **Proper Watering Start Times:** Begin watering close to sundown to improve water availability to the plant and avoid evaporation.
- **Cycle Soak:** Do Not water until water runs off the targeted area. Water for half the desired time, allow 10 to 15 minutes for the water to soak in and then complete the cycle.
- **Rain Delay:** Turn your water off for a few days after a good rain storm. (that's saving money)
- **Inspect the System:** Check for weeping valves (valves that do not completely shut off), Level irrigation heads and be certain that the heads are rotating properly.
- **Perform proper Cultural Practices:** Aerate (removal of thatch will improve gas exchange and water infiltration), Fertilize (feed the hungry)

There is no "Big Secret" to great turf. It really comes down to consistently monitoring the performance of the irrigation system, making the necessary adjustments and staying on top of the needed cultural practices.

If you would like to know more about how to have an attractive turf and save your community money, or if you just have questions in general about landscaping, feel free to contact us. We would be more than happy to help. Our friendly, expert advice is free! (We're not a law firm.)

P.S. THANK YOU! to all of those who have worked with us over the years. We really appreciate it and look forward to every new opportunity we are given to assist you with your communities.

Sincerely,

John Nation
Clean Cut Lawns, LLC

