

lawn about 30 minutes to absorb the water. Then resume the watering until the desired amount has been applied.

EARLY MORNING is an ideal time to water. There are several drawbacks to afternoon watering. For one thing, evaporation caused by wind and sun are at a maximum in the afternoon.

In addition, local water consumption usually is highest in the afternoon, causing low water pressure and interfering with sprinkling patterns.

Certain areas of the lawn may need to be watered before others, such as an area on a slope facing south with maximum sun. Hand-watering isolated dry areas can sometimes extend waterings for a few days.

TWO PROBLEMS that result in poor water penetration are thatch and compacted soil, which actually can repel water and cause wasteful runoff.

Regular dethatching and aerification

should be practiced to increase water penetration, provide air to roots, and aid in nutrient uptake.

Mowing lawns at recommended heights, which are higher in hot weather, also will help conserve water. Efficient watering also will help conserve water.

Efficient watering also depends on proper fertilization. Poor fertilization encourages weeds which compete with the grass for water.

Too much fertilizer can make the lawn hungrier for water and, in turn, cause thatch to develop.

Most types of sprinklers have some drawbacks but can be used effectively, provided the waterer knows how they perform and moves them around accordingly.

The sprinkler's pattern and rate of distribution should be tested. One way is to place evenly spaced containers on the lawn. Then turn on the sprinkler at the pressure you would normally operate it. After a set time, turn it off and measure and compare the amount of water in each container.

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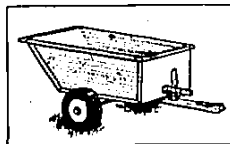
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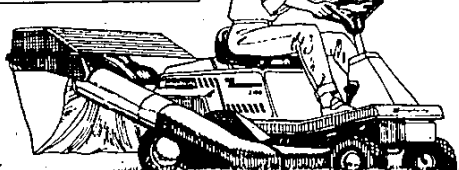
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