

LEARN ABOUT YOUR TURF

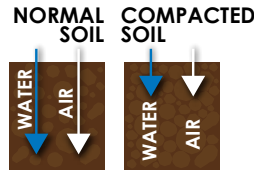
Many factors are included in determining how long and how much to water your grass. The key for any lawn is keeping it alive and healthy while still being efficient with water

Soil Type and Health

The type of soil in your yard determines how it absorbs water. There are three different types of soil; clay, sandy and combination. The most common type of soil in Colorado is clay soil.

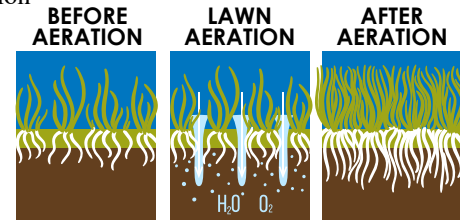
What are compacted soils?

Compacted soils are dense. It takes longer for water to soak into the soil. Clay soils are typically very compacted. If the soil can't soak up water fast enough, water will runoff the surface of the soil, which doesn't help your lawn.



What can you do?

Proper amendment before sod is installed is the best way to ensure the health of the turf. If turf is already established, aeration and fertilization is key. To learn more about aeration and fertilization visit <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/watering-established-lawns-7-199/>

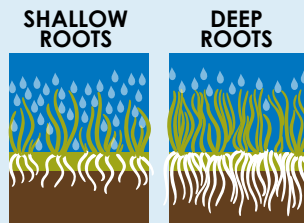


Roots

Plants put energy into growing roots to get nutrients and water. Roots will grow as deep as needed to get water, using the least amount of energy possible.

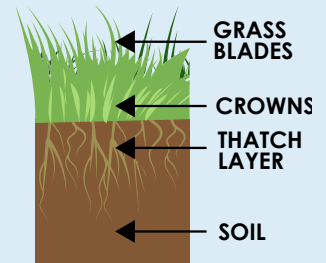
What does this mean?

The deeper the roots the better. Turf grass will only grow roots deep enough to reach water. If there is always water on the surface, then the roots won't grow deep. Shallow roots mean that the grass can dry out more quickly during hot and dry periods, making your turf less resilient.



What can you do?

Avoid overwatering your grass. Overwatering leads to shallow roots and too much thatch on your lawn. Although some thatch is desirable in your lawn, too much can cause extensive root damage. Because thatch heats up and dries out quickly, the roots risk becoming too dry.



Maintaining Your Turf

Once you've got the foundation covered, here are some tips for keeping the turf looking great:

- Mow early in the day when it is cool outside
- Keep mower blades sharp
- Keep your grass 2.5 to 3 inches tall.
- Leave your grass clippings when you are done mowing. Grass clippings left after mowing can aid in fertilization
- Don't overwater as this can wash out nutrients
- Check for disease
- Make sure brown spots are not a result of sprinkler issues