



'Brown lawns are cool' - turf experts urge homeowners to hold back on watering established lawns

Provided by the Turfgrass Growers Association

Turf experts are advising homeowners to avoid watering established lawns during hot, dry weather.

The Turfgrass Growers Association, whose members produce more than 70% of the turf grown in the British Isles, says that during hot weather, the watering of established lawns is, in most situations, wasteful and unnecessary.



"Our message to homeowners is not to worry if your lawn goes brown during the summer", says its Chief Executive, Tim Mudge. "Going brown is the natural survival mechanism of grass. When water is in short supply grass responds by shutting down. The brown colour shows that it has stopped growing until more favourable conditions return. Grass is remarkably resilient, and as long as you follow a few basic rules, most lawns will recover completely when the rain finally arrives."

- Increase your mowing height to 35-40mm – this creates deeper roots and more shade and shelter from high temperatures
- Keep mower blades sharp. Blunt blades bruise the leaf causing the plant to lose more water
- Try not to concentrate wear in one place – move barbecues and toys like slides around
- There is no need to feed your grass as it won't be growing during hot weather
- Avoid blanket weedkillers as they may damage the grass – use a spot weedkiller if necessary
- Apply a light dressing of compost to help keep moisture in the soil and protect the grass from high temperatures
- Scarify your lawn once a year to remove matted and dead growth. If it is allowed to build up, it acts as a barrier to rainfall

Tips for looking after established and newly-laid lawns during the summer are available from the association's website at www.turfgrass.co.uk.