

Farm & Garden

Tips to help your grass go greener

There's no need to water daily to have your lawn looking lush and green for summer, discovered **JENNY GALBRAITH**

WITH water restrictions and dry conditions sometimes it can seem impossible to keep your lawn looking lush and healthy.

However it doesn't have to be a big battle, according to Hills lawn expert Gerry Faehrmann.

Mr Faehrmann owns Lawn Green, a lawn care business which has more than 300 clients across Sydney.

He said by following three easy tips anyone can get their lawn up to 80 per cent of what it could be.

The first tip is regular mowing.

"You get a nice looking lawn, and it also serves to reduce the spread of weeds," he said.

"Generally in spring and summer you mow down to an inch high, and in autumn and winter an inch and a half high."

The second tip is feeding, or fertilising your lawn.

Mr Faehrmann recommends fertilising with a good, slow release granular fertiliser in autumn and spring, to set the lawn up for the cooler and warmer seasons.

"Now is the perfect time as it is just coming out of winter dormancy," he said.

He said they use a granular fertiliser which is coated with herbicide.

The fertiliser naturally greens the lawn and the herbicide stops weed seeds from germinating.

The final tip is watering, and as surprising as it sounds, Mr Faehrmann said he promotes a nil watering policy, other than in periods of extreme dryness.

He said lawns need heavy but infrequent watering to establish a deep root system.

"A deep root system gives drought tolerance, and heavy but infrequent watering is provided by rainfall."

In extremely dry conditions Mr Faehrmann recommends giving lawns a good soak once a week in summer and once a month in winter.

"If you want to conserve water it's better to do that, water it 10 or 20 minutes twice a week."

However Mr Faehrmann said you need to have ensure you do all three – mow regularly, use fertiliser and water infrequently but heavily – to produce a healthy lawn.

"You can't just rely on rain if you're not regularly mowing and have the feed happening. They're the key things, so if you have them then you are on the way."

Getting your lawn in top condition, Mr Faehrmann said, would obviously depend on the type of turf you have and the different weeds in the lawn.

For more tips on lawn care check out www.lawngreen.com.au



Lawn care expert Gerry Faehrmann has tips to ensure your lawn doesn't take hours of watering.