

Drought Proof Your Lawn: *Mower Cutting Height and Sharp Blades*

Two great ways to grow a stronger lawn and keep it looking healthy are to (1) properly set your mower height and (2) keeping your mower blades sharp.

Longer grass is more drought resistant because it grows longer and stronger roots. Setting your mower to cut at three inches or more will ensure a longer and more expansive root system. These stronger roots will tap into a deeper and larger reservoir of water and nutrients.

Remember from [last week's article](#) that deep roots and the subsequent vigorous top growth offer more than just drought resistance. It also ensures that weeds have a more difficult time establishing themselves and insect damage is less apparent.

Keeping your mower blades sharp will make a clean cut and give a green look after mowing. Conversely, dull blades shred and tear grass leaving a ragged, white colored tip and making your lawn look several shades less green. Further, a clean cut heals quicker and uses less water to repair itself, giving you an overall healthier and more drought resistant lawn.

Watch for weekly articles about how to drought proof your lawn. Questions may be directed to Darwin Bundy at dbundy@lehi-ut.gov.