



*Special to the  
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**Topic:** Fall, football and lawn care

**Column:** At the Root of It All

**By:** Clint Allison

I once heard there are four seasons—winter, spring, summer and football! While most weekends in the fall seem to be filled up with football, it's easy to put lawn care on the backburner.

The rainy season here usually occurs during the winter and spring, which explains why most lawns and landscaping look substantially better in the spring.

Most summer damage to lawns can be repaired with an abundance of seeding in the fall and with sufficient watering. Repairing the lawn at this time lets the lawn establish itself before the next summer heat. Consistent watering along with a good fertilizer program also can keep the lawn healthy and minimize the weeds that prospered during the hot months.

Here's a mowing tip to keep in mind next summer—to avoid future lawn damage from hot weather and lack of rain, cut grass to about four inches or higher.

Now, knowing just when the best time to water a lawn can be tricky. In my opinion, the best time to water – in any season – is early in the morning, which prevents water from setting on the grass overnight, causing fungus and disease problems. This also allows the grass to get more water into its root zone, so the sun does not evaporate the water and the wind does not affect the spray patterns.

If you happen to have an irrigation system, now is the time to start thinking about scheduling winterization services before the freezing weather sets in and freeze up any lingering water in your pipes. This helps to avoid bursting pipes and repair costs.

Clint Allison provides more tips and information at [www.rainscapes.com](http://www.rainscapes.com) or by calling call 981-4270.

*Rainscapes is the only national Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Contractor in Knoxville, offering diverse residential and commercial irrigation products and services, including system installations, seasonal irrigation maintenance and landscape lighting and design. Rainscapes was founded by Clint Allison in 1996. Visit [www.rainscapes.com](http://www.rainscapes.com) for more information.*