

# Maintaining Lawn in a Drought

**Practical ways to keep your lawn green without stressing the environment**

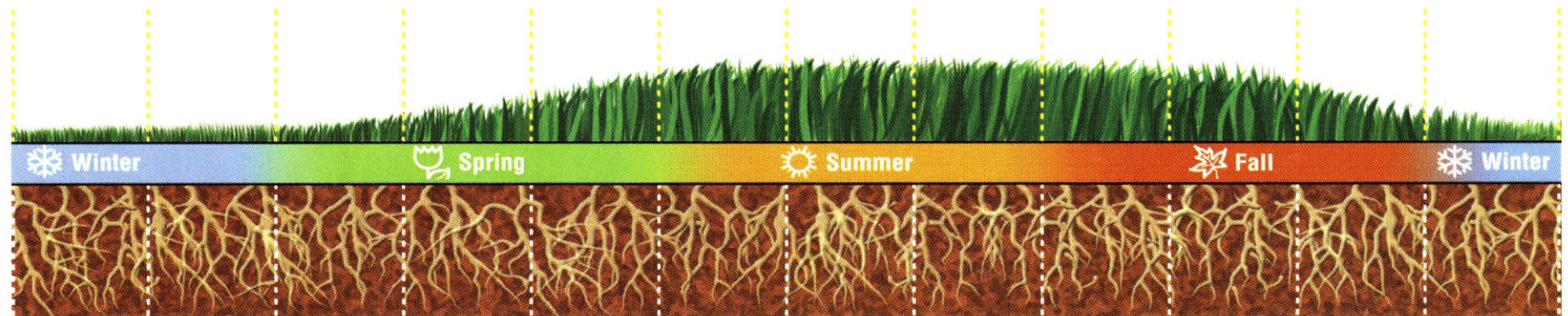
Presented by:  
Chanshare Farms





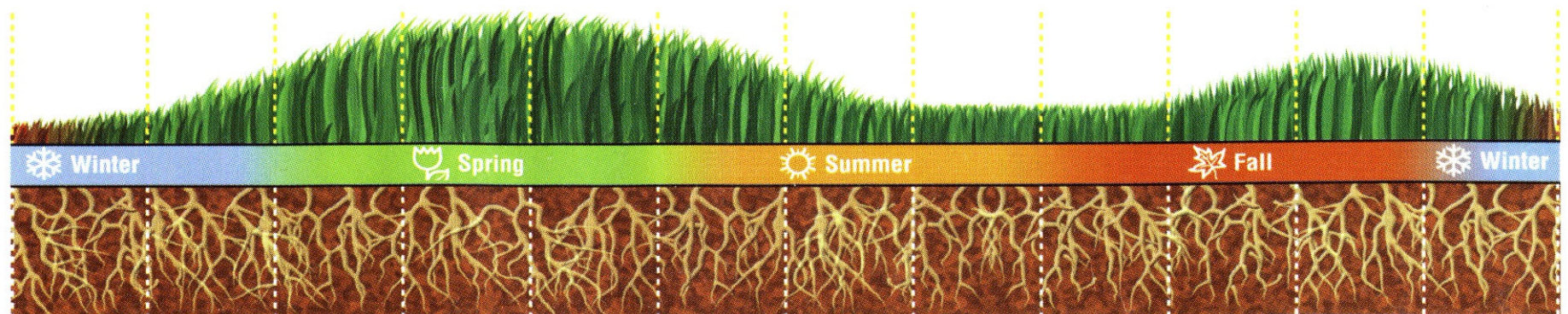
# Grass Growth Cycle

## Growth calendar for warm-climate grasses



Warm-climate grasses grow slower during the summer months when the temperatures are above 95 degrees F. When the weather cools down (below 80 degrees), the growing rate speeds up. It slows down again when temperatures fall below 55 degrees.

## Growth calendar for cool-climate grasses

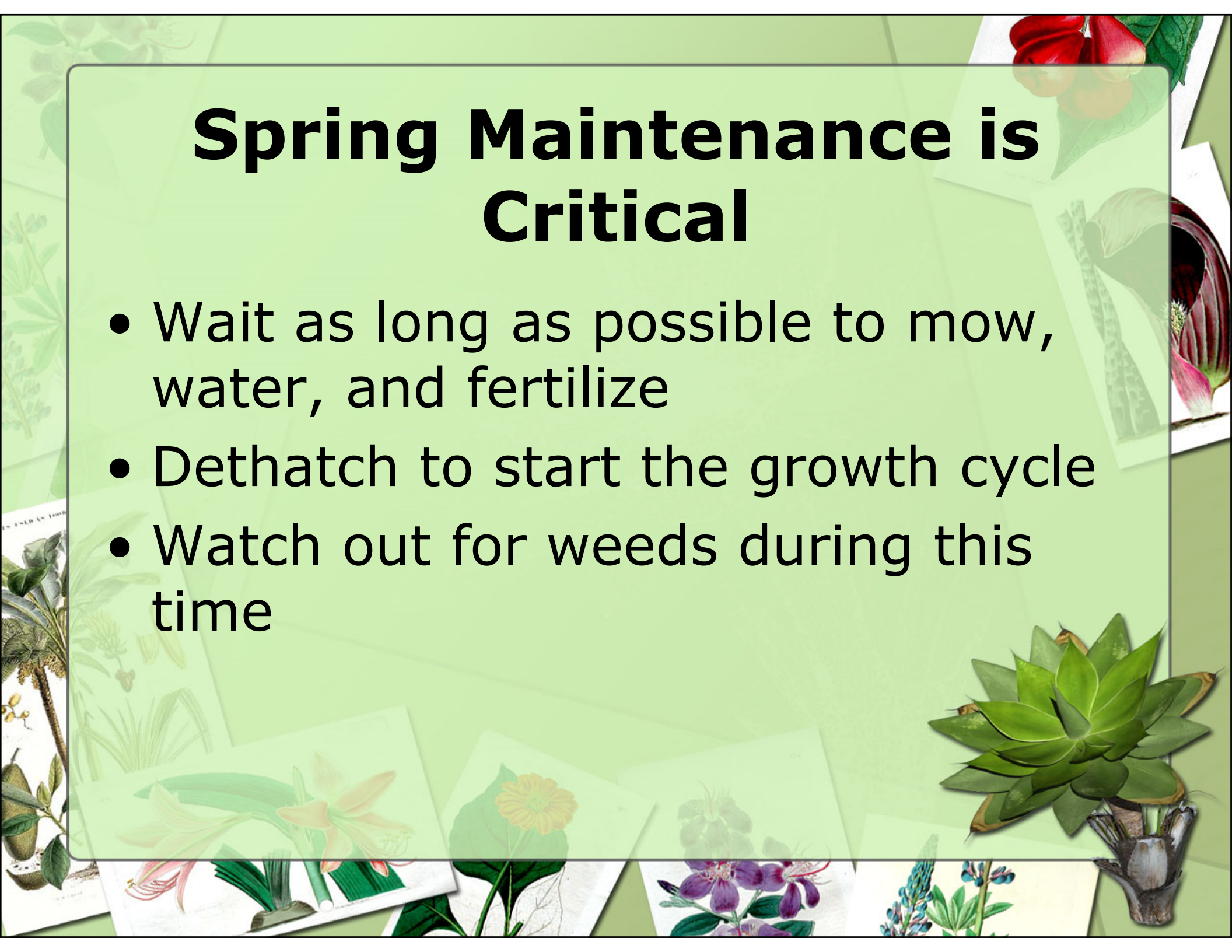


Cool-climate grasses have two distinct growing periods, the main one in the spring and a shorter one in the fall. During the hot, stressful summer months, growth slows.



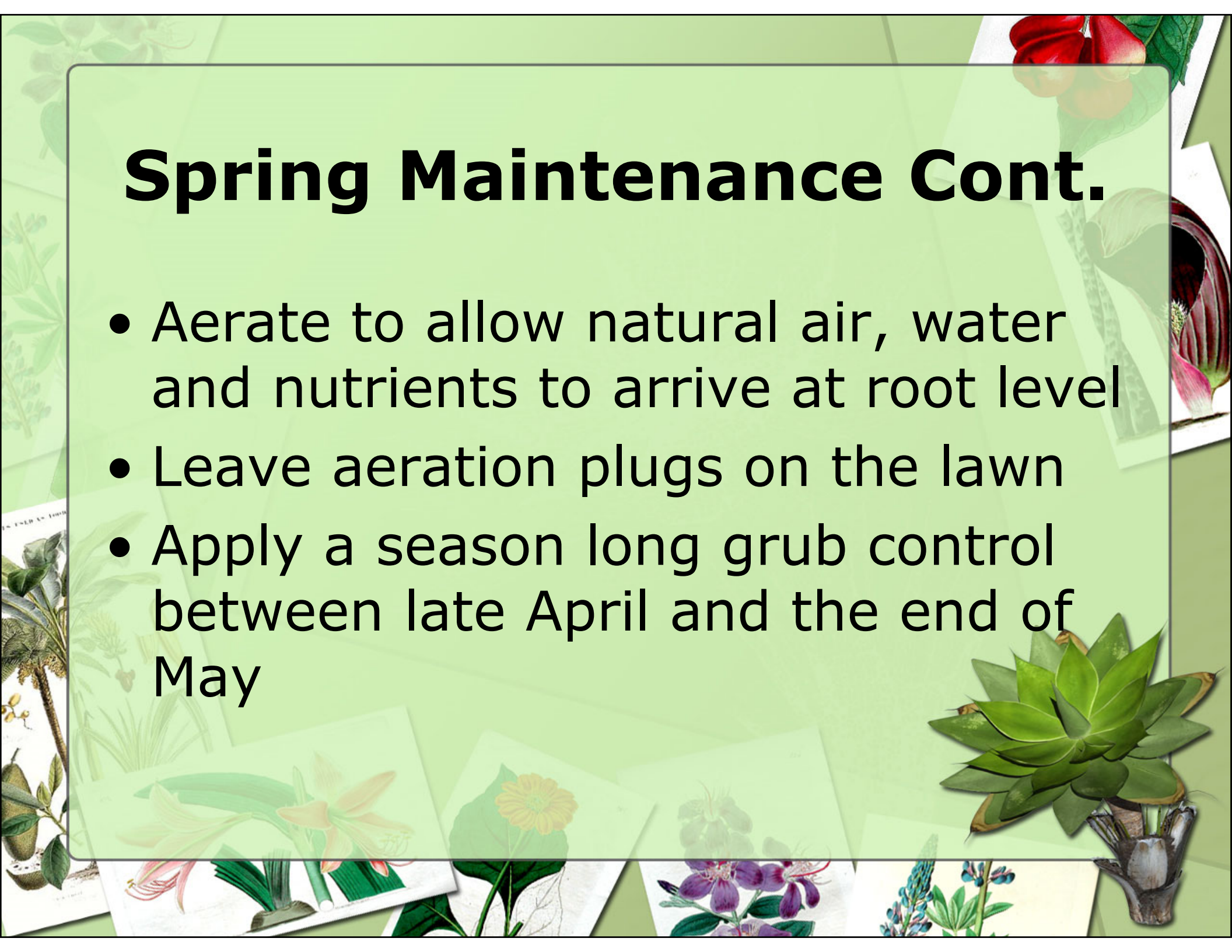
# Spring Maintenance is Critical

- Wait as long as possible to mow, water, and fertilize
- Dethatch to start the growth cycle
- Watch out for weeds during this time



# Spring Maintenance Cont.

- Aerate to allow natural air, water and nutrients to arrive at root level
- Leave aeration plugs on the lawn
- Apply a season long grub control between late April and the end of May





# Can you plant new sod?

- New Sod usually requires more water than 1" a week for the first month to establish
- New Sod can succeed on 1" of water a week if planted before daytime temps hit 85 degrees
- Do not mow for at least 3-4 Weeks



# Watering for New Turf

Week	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
How often to water	Every day	Every other day	Every third Day	Every fourth day
April	*			
May	*	1/3	1/2	2/3
June	1/4	1/2	2/3	3/4
July	1/4	1/2	3/4	1
August	1/4	1/2	2/3	3/4
September	*	1/3	1/2	2/3
October	*			
	*Apply 1/4 of an inch as needed			



# Watering for Established Turf

North/Central Utah	
<b>April</b>	No irrigation recommended, unless needed under extremely dry periods
<b>May</b>	1 inch every 10-14 days
<b>June</b>	1 inch every 7-10 days
<b>July</b>	1 inch every 6-7 days
<b>August</b>	1 inch every 7-10 days
<b>September</b>	1 inch every 10-14 days
<b>October</b>	A good soaking to a depth of six to eight inches around the middle of the month
<b>November</b>	No irrigation recommended unless unusually warm and lawn shows signs of stress

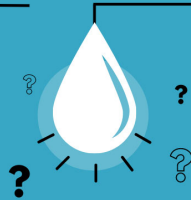
# Fertilizer Recommendations

- Normally 4x Annually
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Halloween (Most Important!)
- Drought Conditions – 2x
- Memorial Day
- Halloween
- Must be vigilant about weeds





# Landscape Watering Order of Importance



**HOW DO YOU  
PRIORITIZE  
WATERING  
DURING A  
DROUGHT?**

Extension  
UtahStateUniversity. 

**1**

**TREES**

Trees provide shade, help cool your home and produce oxygen.

**2**

**SHRUBS**

Shrubs filter dust and pollution from the air and help dampen traffic noise.

**3**

**PERENNIALS**

Over time, perennial plant roots help improve your landscape soil.

**4**

**ANNUALS**

Annuals provide pollen for bees and other pollinators as well as food for hummingbirds.

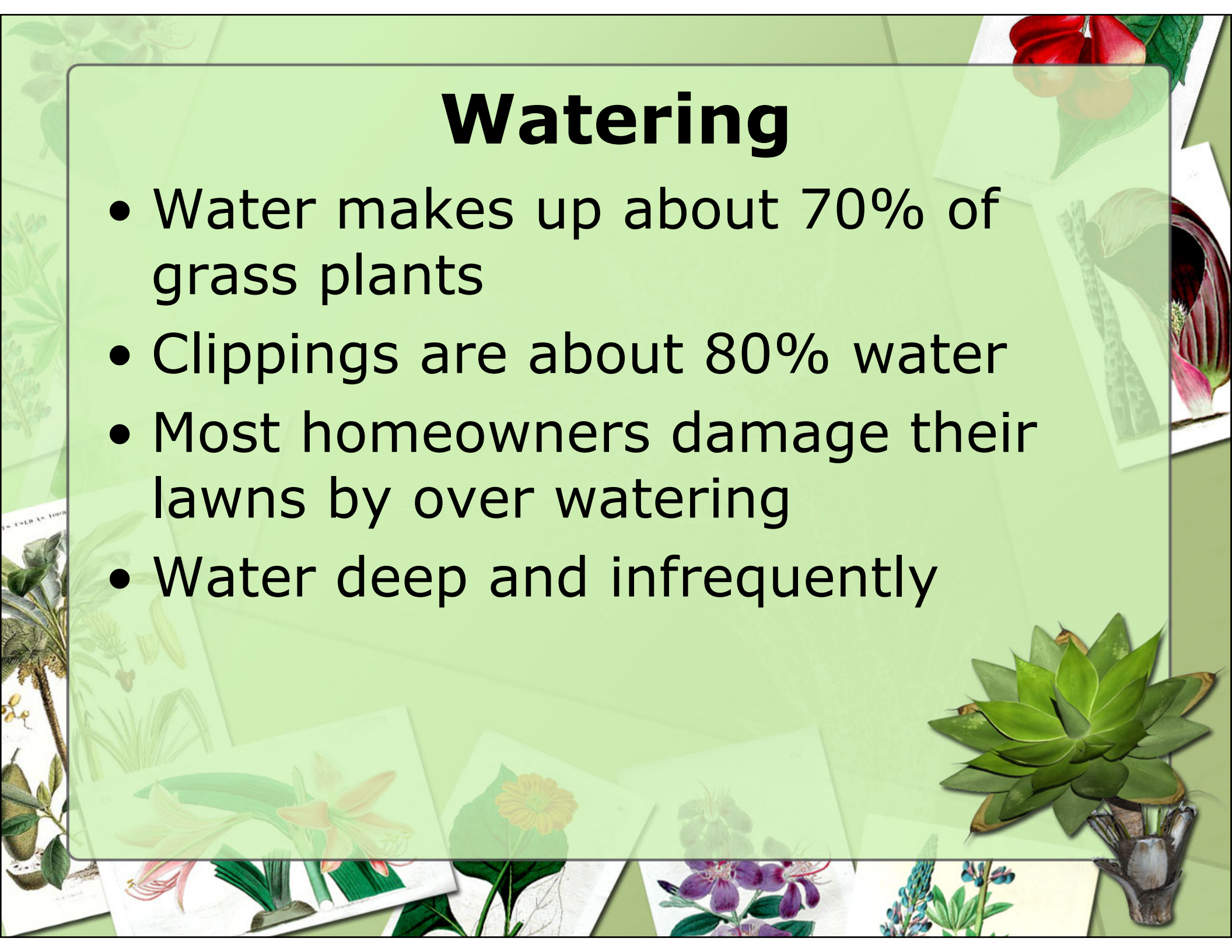
**5**

**TURFGRASS**

Of all the plants in your landscape, grasses are the toughest! They will enter dormancy during times of drought and recover when conditions improve.

# Watering

- Water makes up about 70% of grass plants
- Clippings are about 80% water
- Most homeowners damage their lawns by over watering
- Water deep and infrequently





# Watering Techniques

- Grass roots only grow as deep as they need to get water.
- If you water deeper and longer the roots will grow deeper and longer looking for water.



# Determine Watering Practices By Watching Your Lawn

- Try to apply needed water in 1 application
- If you get run-off or puddling break up into cycles on same day
- If your lawn goes dry between watering break into watering on several days





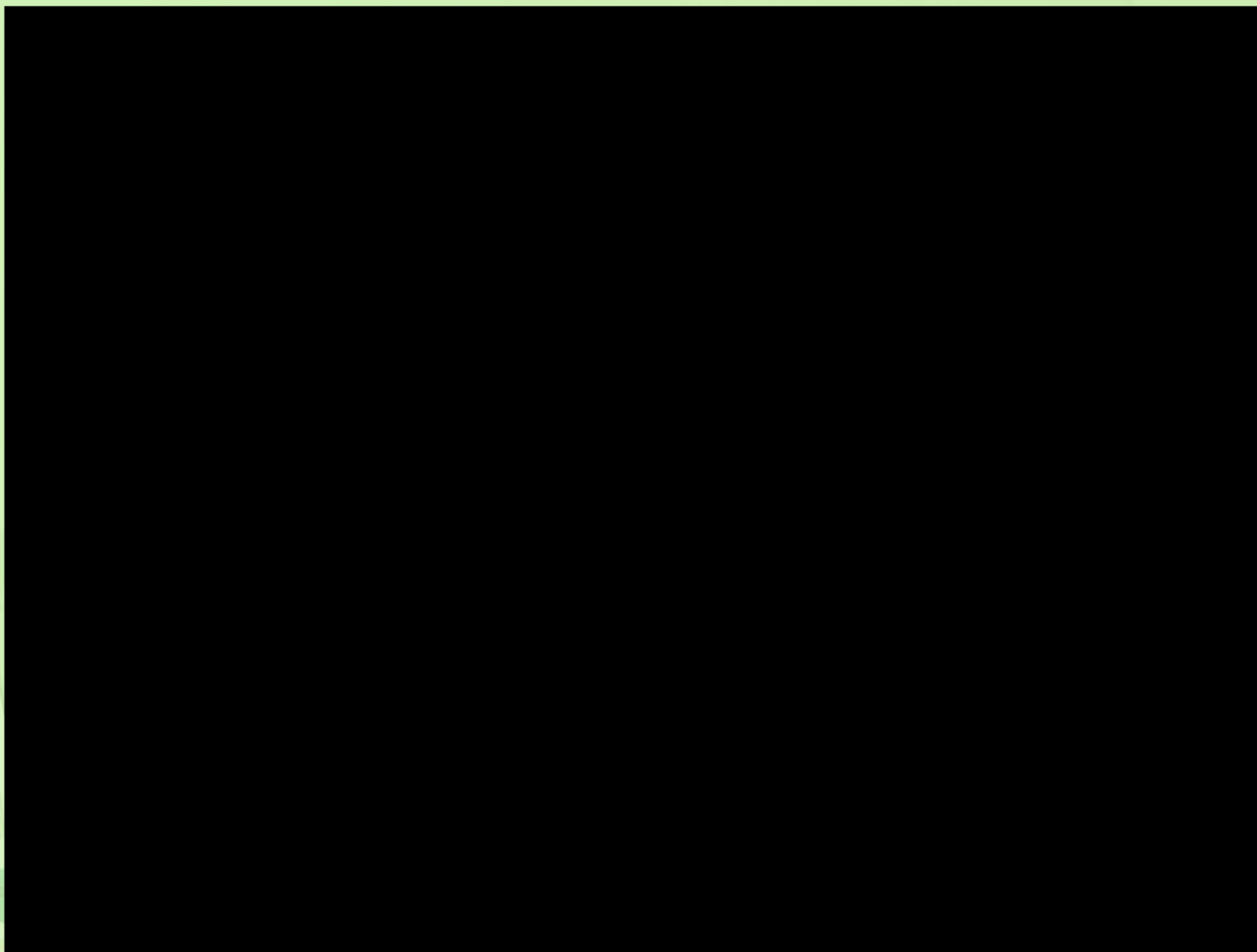
# Reading Your Lawn

Usually an area of the lawn will turn a blue-gray color before the rest of the lawn.

When this happens apply 1 inch of water to the whole lawn.



# Browning Out Your Lawn





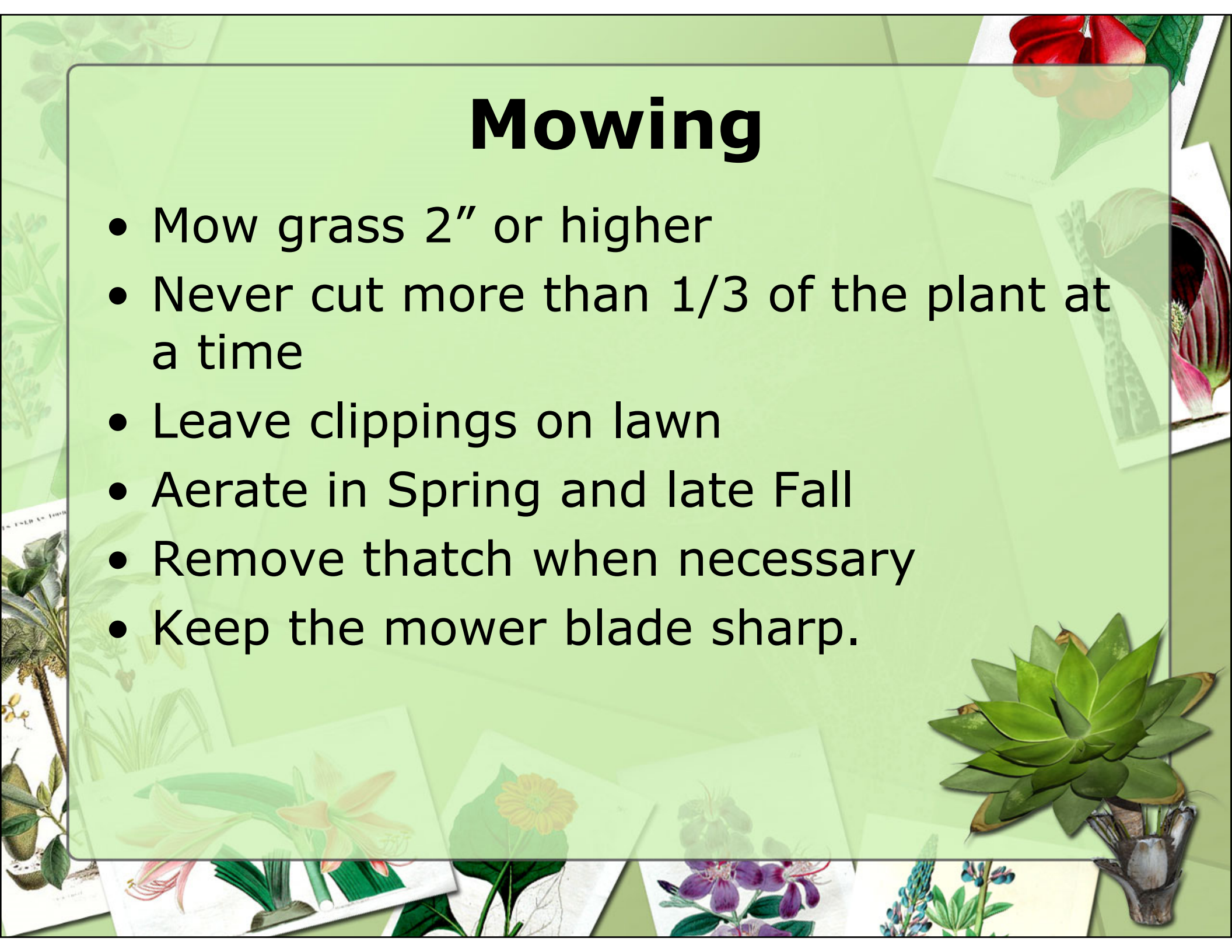
# Browning Out Your Lawn

- Only needs .5" a month to survive
- Wait for temps to rise above 90 degrees
- Do not fertilize for 4 weeks before
- Do not mow for 1-2 weeks
- Resume watering after 4-6 weeks
- To bring out of dormancy start watering and fertilize



# Mowing

- Mow grass 2" or higher
- Never cut more than 1/3 of the plant at a time
- Leave clippings on lawn
- Aerate in Spring and late Fall
- Remove thatch when necessary
- Keep the mower blade sharp.





# Weed and Pest Control

- Weed and Feed Fertilizer is a good pre emergent that will take care of many weeds. Apply early in Spring.
- Hand weeding is the most effective form of weed control in most cases.



# Resources

- [www.chanshare.com](http://www.chanshare.com)
- [www.drought.usu.edu](http://www.drought.usu.edu)
- [www.localscapes.com](http://www.localscapes.com)
- [www.conservewater.utah.gov](http://www.conservewater.utah.gov)





# Q & A

