



Secrets to a Healthy Lawn: Sun

The secret to a healthy lawn in North Texas is comprised of three things: water, food, and sun. Today I want to focus on the last one, sun which, depending on how much your lawn gets in a typical day, can be a blessing or a curse.

Trees. Nearly everyone loves and wants them on their lot. A big, beautiful, well established tree can not only add beauty to your property, they can also provide shade which in turn keeps your home cooler and will save you on your energy bill. What is good for your wallet however, isn't good for your lawn and landscape, and too much shade is often the culprit for an unsightly dirt patch in a lawn. I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone tell me they think all they need to do is install a pallet of sod and their lawn will be fine. What actually happens is the sod looks great for a few months, but over time begins to fade and, six months later, their unsightly dirt patch is back.

The bottom line is that bermuda needs eight hours of sunlight on average and St. Augustine and zosia need about six.

If your lawn isn't getting that much sun then you need a solid plan b which is why roughly two-thirds of the landscape projects Village Green installs are for customers with heavy shade in their yard.

The funny thing is that once these customers accept that these areas will never be able to support a lush green lawn, they soon realize that these areas can be the prettiest and most welcoming places of their lawn.

A shady area can be a great place for a bench on a flagstone patio, maybe with a water fountain nearby to enjoy during a beautiful day. And for large areas, ground cover, such as lirope or asian jasmine can be added and then be broken up with shrubs of different sizes and textures such as variegated pittosporum or plum yew. If water restrictions are a concern, you can use river rock and mulch areas to break up large areas while reducing the watering requirements.

If you're searching for ideas on how to fix an unsightly brown patch in your lawn, or just looking for some landscaping ideas, I invite you to visit our landscape portfolio <http://www.villagegreen-inc.com>. The page contains a tour of landscapes from our recent projects designed by our on-staff landscape architect, David Daigle. You can also watch a couple of my landscape eTours which showcase some customers with a lot of shade on their property and our landscape solutions for those yards. <https://vimeo.com/64509960> and <https://vimeo.com/67570073>.

If you have any questions regarding your lawn and landscape please don't hesitate to contact us at 972-495-6990, email me at ken@villagegreen-inc.com. We'd be happy to answer any of your questions.