

'Grass Roots' Lawn Tips

The U.S. National Arboretum's 'Grass Roots' Initiative includes a 1.3-acre interactive exhibit that is made up of 12 unique displays demonstrating various benefits and uses of turfgrasses. The primary message of the exhibit is that the best lawns are developed and managed with their purposes in mind, whether those purposes are golf and other sports, linking landscape elements, conserving soil, assuring water retention, or simply beautiful landscapes. 'Grass Roots' also maintains its own turfgrass information [website](#).

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Bringing Your Lawn to the Next Level: The Impact of Edging

Edging is an easy way to take your lawn from looking "good" to "great"! An edger can be used to give a defining line to hardscape features, such as sidewalks and patios, and softscapes, such as mulch beds and tree wells. Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind when using your edger.

- Confirm that any safety guards are firmly in place. It's easy for an edger blade turning at top speed to kick up dirt, rocks, or other debris.
- When starting to edge, make sure your edger's blade is up to full speed before placing it into the ground to ensure a clean, smooth cut.
- Check the blade depth. Many edger models have a blade depth adjustment. If the edger becomes bogged down and is bringing up a lot of soil, the blade is too deep. Always be sure that the edger is off and the spark plug cap is removed before adjusting the blade depth.
- Make sure your edger blade is sharp. Using a dull edger blade will not only leave the edging lines more jagged, but it also takes more of a toll on your edger's engine. Also, using your edger's guide wheel on hard surfaces will help maintain a consistent, smooth edging line.

Visit the following 'Grass Roots' resources, for more general lawn care information:

- Lawn Care Education: www.usna.usda.gov/Education/Lawn%20Care.pdf
- US Land Grant Colleges and Universities: Turfgrass Programs and Extension Service Information: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/LandGrantColleges.pdf>

