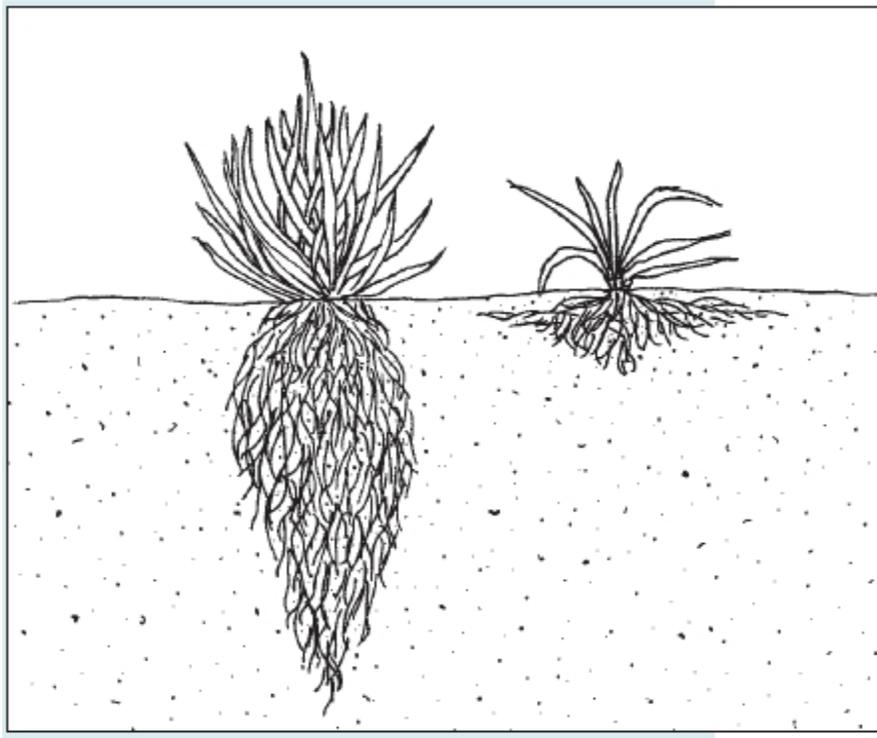


## *Lawn Care the Environmentally - Friendly Way*



Judy Ricketts-White

### ***Know Your Watering Schedule***

Most lawns require about one inch of water per week, either from natural rainfall or irrigation. Some homeowners like to water their lawn for a few minutes several times a week, but this practice actually weakens the grass by discouraging deep root growth. To promote deep root growth and drought resistance, use a rain gauge to keep track of rainfall. If Mother Nature has not provided an inch of rain in a week, then apply an inch of water. Measure watering levels by placing a tuna fish or other shallow can under the sprinkler system. Don't apply water faster than the ground can soak it up. If water runs off the lawn, slow down the watering.

During prolonged dry spells, it is better to let the lawn go dormant than to stress the grass by watering and forcing it to grow. Stressed grass is susceptible to pest and disease problems. Fine fescues and turf-type tall fescues are the more drought-tolerant of the common lawn grasses. Bluegrasses may require supplemental water to survive drought conditions.

**To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the *City of Elgin* at (847) 697-3160.**

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)