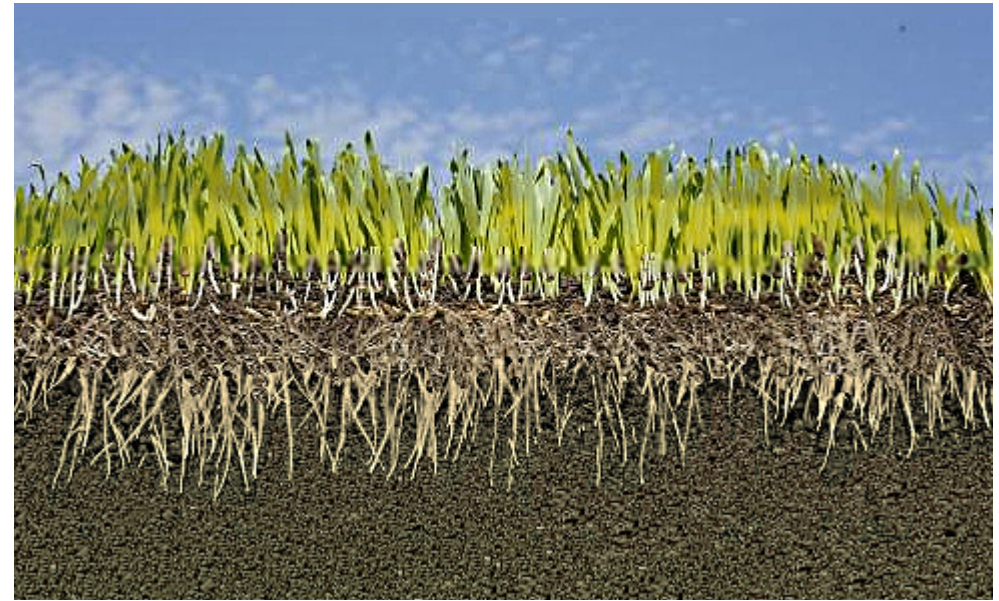




Research has shown that simple maintenance practices can encourage bluegrass roots to seek water and grow deeper. Such things as postponing irrigation system start up until May, watering deeply and infrequently, spring and fall lawn aeration, proper mowing/fertilization and never watering when the soil is wet (as in right after a rain or irrigation event) all contribute to deep roots. When the hot dry days of summer arrive, your grass will be able to go longer between waterings!

A More Water Efficient Lawn

Parker Water & Sanitation District



On the flip side, starting your irrigation too early in the season or watering too much or too frequently will produce a shallow root system incapable of keeping up with summer water demands. Plant roots need air as much as they need water. Applying too much water forces the air out of the soil pore spaces, resulting in the death of deep roots and a need to irrigate more often, wasting water and money in the process.

As this illustration shows, an ideal soil is composed of 45% inorganic minerals, 5% organic matter, and 50% pore space, which should be occupied equally by air and water. Excessive irrigation eliminates the air space so critical to root survival and water efficiency.

*Written by Craig Miller

