

NEWLY SEEDED LAWNS MANAGEMENT



Your new lawn needs proper maintenance to ensure success; particularly in the first several weeks. Please follow the watering and care instructions below to ensure successful establishment.

PLEASE NOTE:

- You may walk on the lawn to move sprinklers, but keep non-essential foot traffic to a minimum during the initial establishment period.
- Do not rake or remove straw from the lawn area. It will decompose naturally.
- Do not water at night or late in the evenings. New seedlings are susceptible to diseases; encouraged by prolonged periods of being wet.
- Water along pavement surfaces when temperatures are warmer, as the hot surface will bake the seed.

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (0-10 DAYS):

- Water each day for at least 10 to 15 minutes in each area of lawn (according to how much water your sprinkler emits), to a soil depth of 1/4".
- Watering a second time each day is recommended when sunny and temperatures are over 65°.
- If the new seed was covered with peat moss, lightly pull the peat moss back to make sure it's not dry below the surface
- Do not fertilize or mow the lawn!

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (11-28 DAYS):

- Continue watering each day, gradually increasing the duration of watering. Water to a depth of approximately 1/2". Do not allow the lawn to puddle.
- Once the lawn has reached 4", the lawn will need to be cut. Discontinue watering for one day before mowing to let the lawn dry out. Water after mowing for the first time.
- Do not apply fertilizer!

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (4 WEEKS AND BEYOND):

- You may begin to cut the lawn more regularly. In general, keep the lawn between 2.75" to 3.5" during establishment. Wait until after four mowings before regular use of the lawn area resumes. Water the lawn approximately 2 times per week, making sure to apply 1" of water each week. Use a pie tin or similar container to measure your irrigation by placing it in the path of the sprinkler. Multiply the amount of water in inches by the number of times you water each week to total 1" per week.
- You may apply a balanced turf fertilizer 6 weeks after installation. Your lawn care company will apply a fertilizer or you may use a consumer product. It is recommended that you use a rotary spreader as opposed to a drop spreader. Look for a fertilizer that has a nutrient ratio of 3:1:2, which indicates the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK).
- Avoid applying herbicides during hot and dry conditions. Herbicides should be applied during cooler weather.

GENERAL CARE FOR NEWLY SEEDED LAWNS

	Water	Mowing	Supplemental Fertilizer	Other Application	Other Cultural Practice
0-7 days	Frequent, light	No	No	No	No
8-14 days	Frequent, light	No	No	No	No
15-21 days	Frequent, light	First Cut	Fertilize at rate of 3/4 lb. slow release nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.	No	No
22-28 days	Frequent, light	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
4-6 weeks	Frequent, longer periods	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
7-10 weeks	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	Next regular application	First pesticide application	No
3 months	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			No
6 months	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			Aerate
1 year	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			Dethatch/ Verti-cut
Notes	Frequent, light watering, at least twice per day will keep the top 1/2" of soil moist and spur germination. Once seedlings emerge, frequency of watering can be lengthened.	Do not water the lawn 1-2 days preceding mowing. Continue watering cycle after first cut.	Apply fertilizer at half the normal rate in shady areas.	Make spot weed control applications as needed, <u>no sooner than</u> 10 weeks from installation date. Use pesticides sparingly, and only as needed	Aerating at least once per year is advisable. Dethatching is necessary in sunnier lawn areas and may not be necessary in shady areas.

Adapted from http://www.lawnlad.com/upload/learning_center/NewSeededLawnCare.pdf