

# Care of Newly Seeded Lawns

Caring for newly seeded lawns can be a tricky thing depending on a number of variables such as weather, soil, sun, & shade. Below is a list of tips to help you with your newly seeded lawn. Each of the topics listed below are explained in greater detail further in the document.

## WATERING - YOUNG GRASS

- Irrigate every other day, weather dependent.
- Allow surface of soil to dry between watering.

## WATERING - ESTABLISHED GRASS

- Increase length of watering time to encourage deeper root systems.
- Lawns need 1" of water per week. Measure using a rain gauge or a tuna can.
- Plan on watering more during hot, dry summer months.
- Watering in the evening or at night makes turf prone to foliar diseases. Just prior to dawn is the best time to water.

## WEEDS

- Weeds do not come from seed mixtures. Weeds are present in native soil and blow with the wind.
- Many kinds of weeds will be eliminated once mowing or string trimming begins.
- Do not manually pull weeds as lawn is becoming established, this will damage seedlings and leave annoying divots.
- If weeds are growing faster than the lawn, mow or string trim once they reach 4-5" tall.
- Broadleaf weed killer can be applied after the fourth mowing.
- **It takes about 2 full growing seasons to develop a thick lawn.**

## MOWING

- Start mowing when the grass or weeds reach 4-5" tall.
- Mowing should be maintained at about 2 ½ - 3" high.
- Only mow when soil is firm and relatively dry. This will prevent damaging your lawn.



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# Care of Newly Seeded Lawns (*cont.*)

## FERTILIZING

- After first 4 mowings, apply a slow-release fertilizer.
- 2 to 4 applications of fertilizer per year for an established lawn.
- Water in all fertilizer applications, and avoid applying in hot, dry weather.

## EROSION & STRAW MATS

- Do not remove erosion mats, they will naturally break down.

## TRAFFIC AND USE

- Avoid heavy traffic during the first few months of growth.
- Keep dogs off new grass for about 2 months.

## DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS

- Avoid overfertilizing and thatch accumulation to minimize risk of disease or insect problems. Follow all fertilization instructions on package.
- Thatch layer greater than 1/2" is excessive and should be aerated to encourage break down.
- All established lawns should be aerated annually in the fall.
- Difficult to diagnose, consult us - we are here to help.



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