



# Caring for your Lawn



## New Lawn from Seed

After your new lawn was hydro-seeded, it was then covered with straw or mulch to provide protection for the seed. Now your lawn needs to be properly cared for . . . it's in your hands.

With a newly seeded lawn, follow the simple guidelines below.

1. **Keep it watered!** It is especially important to make sure the ground is kept moist for the first 30 to 45 days. If there is not enough rain during this time, water it every other day (every day in summer's heat) leaving the sprinkler in one spot long enough to ensure the ground is soaked down into the roots, not just the surface. Then, keep it watered during any dry spell or drought for the first year.
2. **Do not walk on the new lawn or allow ANY unnecessary foot or vehicle traffic.** Disturbing the seed, making foot prints or ruts, or compacting the soil will impede the grass from coming in evenly. Stay off your new lawn as much as possible until it is well established.
3. **Do not remove the straw or mulch.** Many people make the mistake of removing the straw thinking it is hurting the new seed, The straw will not impede the growth of the seed, it is providing shade and stabilization for the new seed and is helping to keep moisture in the ground. Leave it in place.

If you have follow the above steps, and the seeding was done in spring or fall, you should see some good growth. Once the grass comes in . . . follow the instructions below under **Mowing and Maintenance**.

## Mowing and Maintenance

Once your lawn is established, take care of it! Every neighborhood has its nice lawns, yours could be one of them.

1. **Mow your lawn regularly with a well maintained mower.** Keep the mowing height up at about 3 inches as mowing your lawn too short can stress the grass. Consistent and careful mowing will discourage the development of broadleaf weeds and keep your lawn looking nice.
2. **Hire a professional lawn service to care for and feed your new lawn.** Many homeowners do more harm than good by applying fertilizer and chemicals at the wrong time or in the wrong amounts. A professional service knows the proper procedures, can spot problem areas, and will stand behind their work. If you do decide to do your own lawn care, be careful, and follow these tips:
  - a. Fertilize using a good broadcast spreader 4 times a year. Early spring, late spring, early fall, and late fall are the times to fertilize. **Never fertilize in the hot summer months.** Fertilizer creates its own heat. It needs moderate temperatures and moisture to get the best results. Use a quality weed and feed combination for 2 of these 4 feedings to help keep your lawn free of weeds.
  - b. Aerify! Have your lawn aerified using a plug aerator once or twice a year. This involves pulling up small plugs of soil, thus helping air, water, and nutrients get through to the roots of your grass. Aerifying will encourage good root growth and will combat soil compaction.
  - c. Keep your lawn watered during droughts and dry spells letting the water soak down into the soil. The best time to water is in the early morning when evaporation rates are low and the grass can dry completely.
  - d. Fill-in thin or bare areas by raking and overseeding the area after a fall aerification.

Follow the above guide to keep your lawn the envy of the neighborhood and always call an expert if you have questions or concerns about your lawn.

## New Lawn from Sod

Using fresh sod will give you a great headstart in establishing your new lawn, but it too needs care after it is installed. Follow the simple guidelines below to assure that your lawn looks its best.

1. **Keep it watered!** The sod and the soil under it need to be kept moist in order for the sod to root itself. Keep all newly sodded areas soaked for the first month by thoroughly watering it twice a week (every day in summer's heat). Do not just wet the grass, let it soak down into the soil below. After 30 days, you can gradually reduce the frequency of watering as the sod should be rooted into the soil below.
2. **Keep off the sod!** Foot traffic will cause annoying and permanent ruts and bumps, and could damage the sod as it tries to root itself. Keep foot traffic, pet traffic, and all vehicles off your new sod.

After you have followed the steps above, follow the guidelines below titled **Mowing and Maintenance** and you will be on your way to having a beautiful lawn.

