



## **Watering and Care Instructions for Seed**

Care after seeding a lawn is important for successful seeding. Changing weather patterns including warmer than normal temperatures in late summer and fall, fluctuating periods of very wet, and then very dry weather make seeding a challenge. Seeding in the fall and then again in the spring may be necessary for a thicker lawn if all the seed did not germinate and grow in the first attempt.

### **Watering**

Watering is critical to successful lawn establishment. Once wet and seed germination has begun, do not let the seed dry out. Postpone reseeding an area during a drought if irrigation cannot be provided.

A newly seeded lawn requires daily watering. 3-4 times a day for 15-20 minutes is recommended. The goal is to keep the seed bed moist, not saturated.

When conditions are windy and dry, the seeded area may require more waterings per day. Pay special attention to soil moisture on hot, windy days, when humidity is low.

As seedlings grow and mature, normally after 2 weeks, the frequency of watering is decreased, but the duration of watering is increased. The water now needs to be available at the root zone and should penetrate the soil so that the top 4-6 inches of soil is moist. Normally twice day for 30 minutes should suffice.

After week 5, you can begin to water 2-3 days a week for 30-45 minutes.

It is best to water earlier in the day so leaf blades do not remain wet overnight.

### **Mowing**

Proper mowing technique is an important part of a lawn maintenance program that is often overlooked. Mowing lawns too short (scalping), or infrequently, causes grass to become susceptible to drought injury, weed infestations (especially crabgrass), and foot traffic injury.

Begin to mow the new turf when it reaches a height one-third higher than the normal mowing height (e.g., if a 3-inch height is desired, mow when the turf reaches 4 inches).



Typically, under optimum growing conditions, this is four to six weeks after seeding. And when mowing during the season follow the “one-third” rule. Remove only one-third of the vegetation (measure from the soil line to the blade tips) at each mowing. Removing too much of the leaf blade at each cutting stresses the new lawn.

Soil should be dry enough so that ruts are not formed by the wheels of the lawnmower.

Mower blades should be sharp, so a clean cut is made.

Generally, mowing needs to be done on a weekly basis during the growing season.

## **Fertilizing**

Fertilizer applications can begin after your first mowing. A regular fertilization program every 6 to 8 weeks is sufficient for the seed.

## **Weeds**

Tilling the seedbed exposes dormant weed seeds to water and light prompting them to start to grow. Competition from weeds is greatest on turf sown in early spring. Hand pull the weeds in small areas.

Grass seedlings are sensitive to chemical injury, so broadleaf herbicides should not be applied until the lawn has been mowed at least three or four times. Follow label directions.

## **Traffic**

Young seedlings are easily injured. Newly seeded areas should be restricted from foot traffic for at least a month after the seed has germinated or until the new lawn has been mowed at least a couple of times.

## **Straw Erosion Netting**

Straw erosion netting is used to help hold in moisture for the seed and help stabilize the ground to help prevent erosion before seed is established. Generally, you do not need to remove the straw erosion netting, but it can be removed if it becomes an obstruction or a nuisance.



If you choose to remove the straw erosion netting, the best time to remove it is when the grass is 2-3 inches tall (about 7-8 weeks), when the roots are established enough to prevent pulling the new seedlings out of the ground.