



Care for New Seed Lawn

Your new lawn has been carefully installed, and needs proper continuing maintenance, particularly in the next several weeks to ensure the success of the installation. Please follow the watering and care instructions below for the next several weeks.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

▶ 1

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). Water the soil to a depth of about 1/4". Watering a second time each day is recommended if the temperatures are over 65° and sunny. At this point, you are watering to keep the seed moist. Deep watering is not necessary. If the new seed was covered with peat moss, make sure the moisture is penetrating the peat moss by lightly pulling the peat moss back to make sure it is not dry below the surface.

▶ 2

Maintenance Practices (10 to 28 days):

The early germinating grasses (rye and fescue type grasses) will begin to germinate and grow.

Continue to water every day, gradually increasing the duration of the watering at least once a day. Water to a depth of about 1/2". Do not allow the lawn to puddle. Every third or fourth day only water lightly to cool the grass area to allow excess moisture to dry. After drying the lawn out, water for up to 30 minutes in each area for a good 1/2" plus to allow soil penetration of the water.

The lawn will need to be cut once it reaches about 3" to 4" in height. Discontinue watering for one day before mowing to let the lawn dry out. A light sprinkling of the lawn is OK to cool it down in hotter, drier weather. Water after mowing the lawn for the first time.

Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn yet.

▶ 3

Maintenance Practices (4 weeks and beyond):

You may begin to cut the lawn as needed, typically once every five to seven days. Be gentle on the lawn. Collect your clippings initially. Wait until after three to four mowings before regular use of the lawn area resumes.

Blue grass takes 21 to 36 days to germinate so continue to water diligently to allow the blue grass to root.

Water the lawn approximately twice a week, making sure to apply 1" of water each week. Use a pie tin or similar container to measure 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. For instance, 1/2" for two waterings equals 1" of total water.

You may apply a balanced turf fertilizer 6 weeks after installation. Either your lawn care company will apply your fertilizer, or you may use a consumer product such as Scott's Turf Builder. If you are applying the product, follow the label instructions very carefully. 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 when it is hot and dry. Wait for cooler weather to apply herbicides. DO NOT apply herbicides until after 10 weeks from the lawn installation date.



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	WATER	MOWING	SUPPLEMENTAL FERTILIZER	OTHER APPLICATION	OTHER CULTURAL PRACTICE
Prohibit all traffic on the lawn until a solid stand of grass has developed (three weeks or more) after which do not play or use heavily until after six weeks of growth or three lawn mowings.					
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 (when plant reaches second leaf stage)	Fertilize at rate of 3/4 lb. slow release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet	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	Less frequent, longer periods	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 a day will not only keep the top 1/2" of soil moist, but will also help spur germination. As seedlings begin to emerge, the intervals between watering can be lengthened.	It is highly recommended not to water the lawn the day or two preceding the first mowing. Continue watering cycle after first cut. Make sure the mower blade is sharp before commencing; a dull blade can uproot seedlings.	Apply fertilizer at half the normal rate in shady lawn areas.	Put off making chemical weed control applications for as long as possible. Most herbicides can be toxic to young seedlings. Use pesticides sparingly and only as needed.	Aerating at least once per year is good, twice per year is preferable. Verti-cutting is necessary in sunnier lawn areas and may not be necessary in shady lawn areas.