

## **HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR NEWLY HYDRO-SEEDED LAWN**

The first 21 days after seeding are the most important. It is imperative that the soil and hydroseed mix be kept moist at all times.

### **Step One:**

During the first 21 days, it is better to water frequently during the day for short periods of time. This will allow the soil to get wet and not to cause run off. If run off occurs, stop watering for the time being. At this time, it doesn't matter what time you water during the day. Again, you don't want the seed husk to dry out.

### **Step Two:**

Once you start to see seed germinate, you may shorten the frequency in watering. Typically, morning, noon, and mid afternoon are good times. This will allow the soil to warm up and allow the roots to spread out.

### **Step Three:**

When you see a uniform growth of new grass, it is time to water once per day. I recommend watering in the early morning around 5 am. Watering in the morning will allow less evaporation and less likely for fungus and disease to occur.

**More is not better!** Watering too much can kill your grass. It is at this time when fusarium blight can occur on your lawn. This means that too much watering is being applied. You will start to see brown blotches in the grass. Within a day, this fungus can spread and kill all the new grass. We need you to help be our eyes. If you start to see this, call immediately. A fungicide needs to be applied immediately. Unfortunately, this is an additional cost to you. Intervention is the best cure.

### **Step Four:**

When should I mow my lawn? Depending on the time of the year, your first mowing is within 4 to 6 weeks after the initial hydro-seeding. When mowing your new lawn, it is important that you cut the lawn with sharp blades and when the grass is dry. You should never take more than 1/3 of the blade off when mowing. I prefer to bag the lawn on the first couple of mows so that the clumps don't smother the lawn. Rake up any clumps on the lawn.

I recommend that you cut your lawn between 2 - 2.5 inches in the spring and fall, and 3 inches in the summer. By allowing the grass blades to grow, it will capture the morning dew and supply your grass with water. The same is true for irrigated lawns.

### **Step Five:**

When can I fertilize? A starter fertilizer was applied at the time of seeding. This fertilizer is to help promote root development. After your second or third mowing, I would apply a second fertilizer with a higher nitrogen content. (The first number on the bag). Nitrogen will help green the lawn, and the other numbers will promote root development and cell division. Fertilizer applications should be between 4 - 6 weeks apart.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fertilizer Application (typical) 28-3-10 25% S.C.U.

3<sup>rd</sup> Fertilizer Application (typical) 30-3-10 50% S.C.U.

When can I spray for weeds? I don't recommend spraying for weeds the first 3 months. Allow the new grass to take hold. Keeping your lawn mowed on a regular basis will help crowd out weeds. If you choose to spray, have only a licensed applicator do this for you. Be patient too! It may take several tries to knock out these weeds. **More is not better!**

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### **Step Six:**

Depending on the time of the year, you will get some crabgrass. Don't be alarmed. Be patient. Crabgrass is an annual weed and can be controlled the next season. Where does it come from? - Everywhere. Continue watering, fertilizing, and mowing your lawn. Once the cool season comes, September/October, the crabgrass will die and the grass will fill in. The next spring it is imperative that you put down crabgrass preventative (tupersan) before May. This product will allow grass seed to germinate, but crabgrass will not.

You will have years of enjoyment if you follow our instructions. Proper fertilizing, watering, and mowing will allow your lawn to be lush and green. If you are unsure about the fertilizing aspect, please call our lawn care department, and we will be more than glad to give you a price.