

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEW LAWN

Provided by *nulawns*

New lawn installations ~ Old lawn renovations ~ Sod or Seed

WATERING

Seeded Lawn

- Until germination, keep the soil moist **but not waterlogged**. After germination, water as necessary, depending on the temperature and the soil composition.

Sodded Lawn

- Day 1 and Day 2 – After installation saturate the lawn. This is very important – especially in hot weather.
- Day 3 to 10 – One inch of water per day keeps the lawn moist to a depth of 4 inches. To help determine the length of time for watering, place a container on the lawn, when it fills to an inch of water the lawn has had enough.
- In hot weather water 3 times per day to a combined total of 1 inch.
- After 2 weeks or when the roots have become established, reduce watering. In hot weather a good soaking (1 inch of water) once a week will generally suffice. Lawns on sandy soil may require watering twice or more per week. Light watering after establishment can do more harm than good and may promote shallow root development.
- Long spells without water in hot weather can promote the presence of weeds and disease.
- After two months, the best time to water is very early in the morning. The lawn gets the full benefit of the water by avoiding the evaporation that occurs in the heat of the day.

MOWING (*mistakes can be disastrous*)

1. Never mow more than 1/3 of the total grass height (even less on the first cut) as it can sent the grass into shock.
2. Try to cut the grass to a consistent height with each mowing.
3. A heigh of 1¼ to 2 inches is recommended for most lawns, and never less than 1 inch. Try to leave it longer in the summer months.
4. Do not allow the grass to grow higher than 2½ inches (especially a seeded lawn)
5. It is best to cut the grass it is dry (cut it wet instead of letting it grow over 3 inches however)
6. Newly installed lawns will usually require cutting within the first week, with subsequent mowing every 4-5 days in the first 40 days after installation (especially important in shade areas). Keep off the grass for at least 3 weeks except to mow and water.
7. Never leave grass clippings on the lawn during the first few months after installation. Subsequently, only if you use a high quality mulching lawn mower.

8. Keep the blades of your mower very sharp and well maintained.
9. Cut at right angles to the previous cut.
10. Cut once a week on average.

FERTILIZING (*over fertilizing is as bad or worse than not fertilizing*)

1. During the first year feeding the lawn is crucial. Measure your lawn to determine the exact amount of fertilizer required. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for exact application details.
2. Event distribution is essential to prevent 'burning'. Using a spreader is strongly recommended. Divide the fertilizer into two parts and apply each in different directions to ensure even coverage.
3. The soil base should be moist and the grass blades dry (to avoid burning) when fertilizing.
4. If it doesn't rain within two days of applying fertilizer, water thoroughly.
5. Fertilizing helps build resistance to drought and disease and the resulting closely knit turf makes it difficult for weeds to become established.
6. Avoid fertilizing in the hot summer months or during a drought.
7. A new lawn should be fertilized 3-4 weeks after installation.
8. Slow release fertilizers are best. Look for fertilizers with the numbers 23-3-23 (or close thereto). Fertilize in the early spring, late spring and again in the early fall and late fall for best results. Follow up with a winter fertilizer depending on the brand and manufacturer. (follow all manufacturer's instructions)
9. Turf in shady locations needs less fertilizer and water, and does tolerate high nitrogen fertilizers.
10. Organic fertilizers are more environmentally friendly and generally safer for pets and children who play on the turf. Caution is recommended when using any type of fertilizer however.
11. A new lawn should be de-thatched (power raked) in the spring following installation.
12. Aerate your lawn in the spring and fall, but only when the soil is moist. This will improve the drainage, help stop soil compaction and stimulate growth. Top dressing with ¼ inch of a good soil mix is also very beneficial after aeration.
13. Removal of leaves in the fall is essential to a healthy lawn.
14. Get rid of weeds and moss as soon as they appear to avoid infestation issues.
15. Apply Dolomite lime to the lawn every spring and fall (follow manufacturer's instructions)
16. Try to keep off the lawn when the ground is frozen, this will help avoid frost damage and fungal growth.

Enjoy your new lawn!