

NAYLOR Landscape Management

MAINTAINING YOUR NEW LAWN

NEW LAWN SEEDING

Watering: Immediately after seeding, areas should be kept moist at all times until grass is approximately 1" tall. This could mean watering 1 to 3 times per day depending on the amount of rainfall and soil type. Moist does not mean watering until soil is saturated or water is running off. Sandy soils may need more water, clay soils may need less water.

When grass is 1" tall, watering can usually be reduced to 1 or 2 times per day until it reaches 3"-4" tall and is ready for its first cut. After the first cut, the general rule of thumb is .70-1.0" of water per week. More water may be necessary in hot/dry weather and less in cool/wet weather. Watering in early morning is best, but mid-day watering is also beneficial during hot weather.

Fertilizing: A new lawn should be fertilized within 30 days of seeding and again 30 days after the first fertilization to promote growth. New grass seedlings have a high nutrient requirement.

Weed Control: No chemical weed control should be used on your new lawn until it is eight weeks old and has been mowed at least three times. If you wish to remove weeds by hand you may, but we suggest you wait until a herbicide can be used. If a weed problem does develop, it is important to control it as early as possible with a selective broadleaf weed or crabgrass killer.

Rock Picking: During the hydroseeding and watering process rocks that were not visible and just under the surface will appear as the soil settles. These should be picked up prior to your first mowing. Be most concerned of picking the rocks that set high on the surface and are one inch or larger in diameter. For most average size lawns this process may take 20-30 minutes. However, if you have rocky topsoil to start with or a large lawn area this process could take several hours.

Mowing: The first mow should be done when grass reaches 3" to 4" tall and should be cut relatively short (2" - 2-1/2") for the first 4 mows. These first mows should be done on a weekly basis. The first mow should be done with freshly sharpened blades. After the first 4 mows your standard cutting height should be raised between 2-3/4" and 3-1/4". Continue cutting on a weekly basis or as often as needed so that with each mow, no more than 1/3 of the grass height is being removed. This means you may have to mow more or less frequently than a weekly basis depending on how fast your lawn is growing.

NEW SOD INSTALLATION

Watering: New sod should be watered 1 or 2 times per day during morning and early afternoon until the sod starts to root which is usually in one to two weeks. Once sod becomes firmly rooted, 1" of water per week, watering in early morning is best. Water more in hot/dry weather and less in cool/wet weather.

Fertilizing: Your new sod was fertilized upon installation and should be fertilized again 30 to 45 days after installation.

Mowing: When sod starts to root (1 to 2 weeks after installation) it can be mowed. 2-1/2" to 3" is a good cutting height. You may still have to tread lightly because the sod may not be firmly rooted in some places and may come up.

Diseases: New sod very often becomes infected with fusarium patch syndrome and necrotic ring spot. Look for brown patches and/or rings. If this occurs, call us and we will recommend treatment.

LONG-TERM LAWN MAINTENANCE BASICS

Upon completing the initial maintenance described above, regular mowing and watering should continue. Watering approximately .7-1.0" of water per week is the general rule of thumb. Soil and weather conditions will dictate if you need to water more or less. You will have to become in tune with your lawn and make adjustments according to conditions. You will recognize that spots in your lawn will start to turn pale green when they are becoming dry, this indicates you are not watering enough. Remember, brown spots do not always indicate lack of water, they can also represent an insect or disease problem. If brown spots occur, check with your local turf grass expert such as Naylor Landscape Management to diagnose your problem.

Maintain weekly mowing as long as your lawn is actively growing. Increase or decrease mowing frequency as the lawn growth increases or decreases. Keep lawn mower blades sharp. Depending on how large your lawn is, this may require sharpening your mower blades two to three times a year or for a professional lawn maintenance operators like ourselves everyday. Most of the time weekly mowing will suffice, but very early (April) and late (November) in the season mowing every 10-14 days is usually adequate. When the lawn is growing very fast in May or June, increase the frequency to every 5 or 6 days until the lawn slows again. If you have a professional lawn service mowing your lawn it will usually be on a weekly basis. This is fine since they usually have very powerful commercial mowing equipment which can handle heavy mowing conditions better. Clean-up any debris prior to mowing especially sticks and rocks. Small amount of leaves are fine to leave on the lawn prior to mowing. Large quantities of leaves should probably be removed first prior to mowing or bagged while mowing with a bagging attachment. We recommend returning the grass clippings into the lawn while mowing. The grass clippings are a great nutrient source for your lawn. If you bag the clippings for a full season and take them away from your lawn it is equivalent to taking away one fertilizer application. If you bag your lawn clippings a regular basis it is also a good idea to increase the nitrogen in your fertilizer program by .75-1.0 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per season in full sun lawns. Shaded to partially shaded lawns will need an additional .35-.75 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per season.

Three to five fertilizer/weed control applications that apply 3.25-4.0 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per season should be done each year on most lawns that receive full sun. Nitrogen should be reduced to 25-50% per season for partially to mostly shaded lawns, respectively. Lawns that contain seed blends with a high percentage of fescue varieties (creeping red fescue, chewing fescue, sheep/hard fescue, tall fescue, etc.) nitrogen rate should be reduced by approximately 40-50 percent. Generally, post emergent weed control products labeled for lawn use can be used on your new lawn provided that it has been mowed at least 4 times, or is at least 10 weeks old since the initial seeding. Please read product label first to see if there are any restrictions on use with new lawns first, before making any application. If some areas of the lawn required reseeding after the initial seeding avoid post-emergent weed control treatments on those localized areas for 10 weeks. If pre-emergent weed control products are used on your new lawn, re-seeding restrictions are usually 45-150 days, please read label first before re-seeding. Pre-emergent weed control products should be applied each spring according to the product label after your lawn has had a minimum of 60 days growing season to establish and no reseeding is necessary. The fertilizer/weed control programs can be purchased at your local garden center if you wish to do it yourself or Naylor Landscape Management offers this service if you wish to contract it.

Core aeration should also be part of your regular maintenance. The best time to do it is the early fall. Core aeration opens up the soil and allows the lawn roots to breathe and grow more vigorously, developing a thicker, stronger healthier lawn with deep roots. Core aeration also allows the lawn to better use the water and fertilizer applied to it. With stronger, deeper roots your lawn will be more resistant to insect, disease, drought and heat stress. Your core aeration should be done at least once per year. Aerators can be rented out at your local rental yard if you wish to do it yourself or it can easily be contracted to your local lawn or landscape service.

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Landscape Management would gladly aerate the lawn for you.

Please remember these are just the basics to get started, it is recommended that you invest the time necessary to learn more on proper lawn care techniques. Books, your local garden center,



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services and the internet are great place to find more information. Good luck with your new lawn!