

Care Guide for Your Hydroseed

Hydro-Seed is a live product! It will be necessary to keep the seed moist. Seed is perishable and may die if not watered properly.

FIRST DAY: Do not walk on the hydroseeded areas until the mulch has dried. You will be able to see that it is dry by a lighter green color. Once dry you may walk on the hydroseed as necessary to begin watering. More info on watering found below. Divert all gutter downspouts away from seeded areas to prevent wash outs. Keep all traffic to a minimum on the hydroseeded areas for the first month, including pets. If you wish to use our Lawn Care Service or have your own provider please know your new lawn will require fertilizer in 3-4 weeks. More info on fertilizing can be found below.

FIRST WEEK: Evaluate your watering methods to be sure that all hydroseeded areas have adequate moisture, keeping the seedbed moist. Areas with full sun exposure will dry out first. The green appearance may be fading to a tan color, which is normal. Remember to keep people and pets off the hydroseeded areas during the germination period. Now is a good time to make sure your mower is tuned up and has a sharp blade.

SECOND WEEK: Continue to keep the seed moist without overwatering. You could now start to see some growth. It is important to remember that even though you may see growth there are still many more seeds that will continue to germinate in the coming weeks. If you don't see any growth by now it could be due to weather conditions. The soil temperature needs to be at least 50° for seed to germinate. Once you begin to see growth it is essential to keep the new plants moist along with the rest of the seed that has not sprouted yet.

THIRD WEEK: If growing conditions are favorable you should start to see some uniformity to the grass. If you have bare spots more than likely these areas are not getting sufficient water. If you notice your grass plants thriving in the shadier areas and not in the direct sun you are losing moisture due to evaporation. It is very important to compensate for this and increase your watering frequency for these areas. If you see grass that has turned brown and is laying down in circular patterns there may be a disease occurring.

FOURTH WEEK: By the end of the fourth week the majority of the seed should have germinated. The germination period is now complete. If no more seed is visible you may now follow a "Deep and Infrequent" watering schedule to achieve at least 1-2" of water a week. The first mowing may take place by the end of this week if the grass is about 3" tall in any given area. More info on mowing can be found below.

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Hydroseed is biodegradable and does not stain. Overspray will easily wash off any surface.

WATERING SCHEDULE: During the germination period (weeks 1-3), water 2-3 times per day for 10-15 minutes keeping the seed bed moist. On days that are 85 degrees and above you may have to water more to keep the seed bed moist. You will be able to tell if it is moist if you have a darker color, the color will lighten if it is drying out. Avoid runoff and puddles, this is over watering. The second phase of the watering program begins when it looks like most of the seed has germinated (weeks 3-5). You will want to reduce the watering to 1-2 waterings per day for 15-30 minutes getting a "deep watering". This allows the roots to grow deeper creating an established root system. Roots will grow deeper into the soil looking for water making the roots stronger. Also reduce or discontinue watering during wet and/or cool periods.

TIPS ON WATERING HYDROSEED: It is not beneficial to water any earlier than 8:00AM. On most nights the ground forms dew that the seed will benefit from in the early mornings. It is more important to keep the seeds moist when there is sun exposure. On rainy or overcast days you may find that it is not necessary to water at all. As long as the seed is moist it is fine. If your seeds dry out for an extended period of time you can certainly expect a delay in germination adding days and even weeks to the progression. Lack of water can easily be identified and will void any guarantee. Your seed will germinate more rapidly when it is kept damp in the warm sun causing a greenhouse effect. Finish watering 3 hours before dusk during hot humid weather. This will help avoid lawn diseases including "Pythium Blight" and damping off.

IRRIGATION: If you have an irrigation system we recommend 2-4 cycles a day. Set the station times to thoroughly moisten the seed bed without pooling (usually between 5-10 minutes.) Space out watering every 2-3 hours starting after 8am and finishing before 6pm. You may have to adjust a few times to get a good balance of moisture throughout the day. Re-adjust schedule once all seed has sprouted. A deep watering 1-2 times a day should be sufficient.

FERTILIZING: In 3-4 weeks your lawn will need to be fertilized using a high nitrogen or "Turf Builder" fertilizer. This must be applied by the end of the 4th week to maintain a dark green appearance and promote a thick lush lawn. We used a high phosphorus "starter fertilizer" when we hydroseeded. Phosphorus stimulates healthy root development in the early stages. It is not necessary or beneficial to use a starter fertilizer again. If your lawn looks thin, not ready to mow and turning yellow this is a good indicator that your lawn needs nitrogen. We recommend using a premium grade slow release fertilizer with nitrogen being the highest number on the bag. **DON'T USE WEED KILLER ON YOUR NEW LAWN UNTIL THE THIRD MOWING HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**

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Your Hydro-Seeding application contains grass seed that requires a continuous supply of moisture. This moisture must come from rainfall or watering. It is not likely that it will rain every day for the next week or two, so be sure to water frequently enough to keep the seedbed moist.

MOWING: Your new lawn should be mowed as soon as the blades are about 3" tall in any area. Delaying the first cutting encourages weed growth, and allows long grass blades to bend over, causing a shabby appearance. Mowing plays a vital role in controlling weeds. Subsequent mowing should be done every week, and the blades of the mower always kept sharp. A sharp mower blade will prevent bruised and torn grass blades. Bruised or damaged grass invites lawn disease and results in unsightly brown spots. Mowing will also promote new grass plants to thicken up your lawn faster. If the grass gets too tall before it is mowed, raise the mower. Mowing young tall grass too short can kill the grass. A good rule of thumb is to never cut off more than one-third of the grass blade during any one cutting.

WEED CONTROL: Once your new lawn has been mowed 3 times we recommend using crabgrass preventer. Crabgrass is more of a threat to crowding out a new lawn than any other weed. Broadleaf and grassy weeds that emerge may also be treated at this time with a post emergent control. Always read labels carefully before applying any product. If you're not confident, please look into our Lawn Care Service.

ADDITIONAL INFO: With ideal weather conditions and soil temperatures, you can expect your lawn to look like established turf in approx. 30-45 days. Different types of seed germinate at different times; any thin areas will continue to fill in as long as the lawn is fertilized and mowed. The mature seedlings will knit together and thicken up each time you mow your lawn. You will need to mow 3-5 times before your lawn will look lush and full. But remember your lawn will not be fully established with deep roots until the following season. A new lawn always looks better the following year as long as the proper care is given. Do not let snow cover the leaves left on the lawn going into the first winter; the decaying leaves are acidic and will kill your new grass. Clean up all of the leaves as soon as possible.

CONTINUED CARE: We have supplied enough information in this guide to get your lawn through the first month. We highly recommend looking into our Lawn Care Service so we can provide you a seasonal lawn care program. This will ensure your lawn will be given the best attention it needs to flourish and you can relax and enjoy the few months of summer we get. If you have any questions or concerns with your lawn please feel free to contact us at 218.721.6458.