



## **Guidelines for your New Lawn**

We have just completed the installation of your newly seeded lawn. We have taken care to pick the best grass seed for your site, to grade proper drainage, and to apply a starter fertilizer to give the seed nourishment as it germinates. The seed for your new lawn is in the ground and ready to grow. Your careful nurturing is an essential element in insuring that the seed will sprout and grow to maturity quickly.

### **1. Moisture -**

- Before germination, until seedlings are 1"-2" tall, you must keep the soil moist at all times. Light, frequent watering will insure the seed remains uniformly moist at all times. If the seed dries out, it won't germinate. If new seedlings dry out, they will die. At the same time, you can kill the seedling with too much water by drowning them. Watch the weather and monitor the top 1/2" of soil. This top 1/2" should remain moist at all times. If it's hot and sunny you may need to water twice. If it is overcast and cool, one time during the day will be sufficient. The key is to keep a close watch on that 1/2" of soil. Check it in both a shady area and sunny area. Your lawn will need 1" of water per week from you or from rain. Not all parts of your lawn will need the same frequency of water.
- After the grass is 2" tall – As the grass roots reach deeper into the soil you slowly switch to deeper, less frequent applications of water. Your lawn will need 1" of water per week. This is best to be done 2 times per week at 1/2" each time. Mark out an area that a sprinkler covers and put a cup in the area. When the cup has 1/2" water in it then it's time to move the sprinkler. This is a great way to tell when you have 1/2" water down.
- After the first mowing – Continue with the schedule of 1" over week. It's best if you can water early in the morning, once per week. Follow this schedule until early fall when we get consistent rainfall.

## 2. **Fertilization** –

Even though we fertilized the lawn as part of the installation, the new seedlings will need to be fed on a regular basis. We recommend Milorganite in hot weather. Four weeks after installation it is important to fertilize the new lawn with balanced granular fertilizer. This fertilizer must also contain a slow timed-release fertilizer, so the tender seedling is not damaged. Know the size of your new lawn, so you can purchase the proper amount of fertilizer. Fertilization will encourage the new seedlings to spread and fill the open areas.

Fertilization should be repeated at monthly intervals for the first 2 months. Then it should be done every 6-8 weeks until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Apply fertilizer when the grass blades are dry, and the soil is firm. Remember to water regularly and deeply after fertilization.

3. **Weed Control** – You will have weeds in your new lawn. Anytime topsoil is disturbed through grading, weed seeds are exposed to the sunlight and will germinate along with the new grass seed. The initial mowing of the lawn should kill many of the weeds, as some weeds will not tolerate mowing. To reduce the remainder of the weeds, you should apply a broadleaf weed killer. This should be applied either in May or in September depending on when your lawn was installed, but do not weed kill until at least 8-10 weeks after installation and after you have mowed the lawn 3 times.
4. **Growth** – Grass plants grow in width as well as height. Your new lawn will look sparse to begin with but will thicken as the grass plants spread. Remember, only 5 grass plants per square foot are necessary for a lush, beautiful lawn.
5. **Mowing** – Proper mowing is essential for a nice-looking lawn; poor mowing practices cause more lawn problems than anything else.
  - When – As easy as it sounds: mow whenever the lawn needs it. In spring, this could be every 3<sup>rd</sup> day; in summer, it might be every 2 weeks. Your first mowing should occur after the grass reaches 4” tall.
  - Mowing Height – 3-4” leaving the grass long will reduce water loss, increase vapor and crowd out weeds. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time. Longer, thicker lawn will help to reduce weed growth
  - Grass Clippings – If you only cut off 1/3 of the grass blades, you do not need to remove the clippings. They do not add to the thatch problem; they can help recycle nutrients back into the lawn.

- Key Points to Remember –
  - Don't cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time.
  - Mow high – 3”.
  - Keep your mower sharp.
  - If possible, don't mow when it's hot and dry or during mid-day.

If you do your part in the maintenance of your new lawn, you will have a beautiful, healthy lawn for many years to come. If you have questions at any time, don't hesitate to call Lammscapes, Contact us with any landscape questions, as well as help with the maintenance of your yard.