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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEWLY INSTALLED LAWN

Correct care and maintenance in the first year after installation is the key to a healthy lawn

WATERING

Seeded Lawn

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

Sodded Lawn

- Day 1 and Day 2 – After installation, saturate the lawn. This is very important – especially in hot weather.
- Days 3 to 10 – One inch of water per day keeps the lawn moist up 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 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 a week. Light watering every day can do a lawn more harm than good, promoting shallow root growth. Long spells without water in hot weather can help to promote weeds and disease.
- After 2 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.

- Never mow more than 1/3 of the total grass height (even less on the first cut), it can send the grass in to shock.
- Try to cut the grass to a consistent height with each mowing.
- A height of 1.5 to 2 inches is recommended for most lawns, but never less than 1 inch. Try to leave it slightly longer in the summer
- Don't allow the grass to grow higher than 2.5 inches (especially a seeded lawn).
- It is best to cut the grass when it is dry. However, it is better to cut it wet than allow it to grow over 3".
- Newly installed lawns will usually require cutting within the first week (don't allow the grass to grow longer than 2.5 inches), with subsequent mowings every 4 to 5 days in the first 40 days after installation (especially important in shady areas). Keep off the grass for at least 3 weeks except to mow and water.
- Never leave the grass clippings on the lawn during the first few months. Subsequently, only if you use a high quality mulching mower.
- Keep the blades of your mower very sharp.
- Cut at right angles to the previous cut.
- Cut once a week.

FERTILIZING – over fertilizing is as bad as not fertilizing

- In the first year feeding the lawn is crucial. Measure your lawn to determine the exact amount of fertilizer required. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Even distribution is essential, so use a spreader. Divide the fertilizer into 2 parts and apply each in different directions.
- The soil base should be moist and the grass blades dry (to avoid burning) when fertilizing.
- If it doesn't rain within 2 days of applying fertilizer water thoroughly
- Fertilizing helps build resistance to drought and disease and the resulting closely knit turf makes it difficult for weeds to become established.
- Generally, a new lawn should be fertilized 3 to 4 weeks after it is installed.
- Avoid fertilizing during periods of hot weather.
- Slow-release fertilizers are best. Fertilize in the early spring, late spring and again in the early fall and late fall. Follow up with a winter fertilizer (always follow manufacturers instructions)
- Shade turf needs less fertilizer and water, and does not tolerate high nitrogen fertilizers.
- Organic fertilizers are more environmentally friendly and possibly safer for pets and children who may put their fingers in their mouths after touching the grass. Caution is recommended when using any kind of fertilizer.
- A new lawn should be de-thatched (power raked) in spring.
- 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 1/4 inch of a good mix is also very beneficial.
- Removal of leaves in the fall is essential.
- Get rid of weeds and moss as soon as they appear
- Apply dolomite lime the lawn every spring and fall (follow manufacturer's instructions).
- Try to keep off the lawn when the ground is frozen. This will help to avoid fungal growth.

ENJOY YOUR NEW LAWN!

Thank You

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