

# NEWLY SODDED LAWNS MANAGEMENT



Your new lawn needs proper maintenance to ensure success; particularly in the first several weeks. Please follow the watering and care instructions below to ensure successful establishment.

- You may walk on the lawn to move sprinklers, but keep non-essential foot traffic to a minimum during the initial establishment period.
- You are not applying enough water if the edges between the sod pull apart or are separating.
- Do not water at night or late in the evenings. New seedlings are susceptible to disease; encouraged by prolonged periods of being wet.
- Water along pavement surfaces when temperatures are warmer, as the hot surface will bake the sod.

## MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (0-10 DAYS):

- Water each day for at least 15 to 20 minutes in each area of lawn (according to how much water your sprinkler emits).
- Watering a second time each day is recommended when sunny and temperatures are over 65°.
- It is important to saturate the sod so water permeates into the soil. Check to make sure you are watering enough by gently pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn to make sure the soil underneath is moist
- Do not fertilize or mow the lawn!

## MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (11-21 DAYS):

- Water every other day for approximately 30 minutes. (Watering for longer periods of time, encourages deeper root growth.)
- Check to make sure you are watering enough by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn to make sure the soil underneath is moist. The sod should be difficult to pull up. Do not force it! The root system is establishing, and should not be pulled from the soil. Just tug lightly to ensure good rooting. If the lawn is not rooting, you may not be watering enough.
- Cut the grass before watering the lawn. Do not remove more than a third of the grass at one time. (If the grass is 5" tall, do not cut below 3.5" in height.) In general, keep the lawn between 2.75" to 3.5" during establishment. If the lawn is too wet to cut, wait one more day before cutting.
- Do not apply fertilizer!

**MAINTENANCE PRACTICES (3 WEEKS AND BEYOND):**

- You may begin to cut the lawn more regularly. Do not remove more than a third of the grass at one time. In general, keep the lawn between 2.75" to 3.5" during establishment. The lawn should be fairly well rooted and can take normal wear and tear. Water the lawn approximately 2 times per week, making sure to apply 1" of water each week. Use a pie tin or similar container to measure your irrigation by placing it in the path of the sprinkler. Multiply the amount of water in inches by the number of times you water each week to total 1" per week.
- You may apply a balanced turf fertilizer 6 weeks after installation. Your lawn care company will apply a fertilizer or you may use a consumer product. It is recommended that you use a rotary spreader as opposed to a drop spreader. Look for a fertilizer that has a nutrient ratio of 3:1:2, which indicates the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK).
- Avoid applying herbicides during hot and dry conditions. Herbicides should be applied during cooler weather.

**GENERAL CARE FOR NEWLY SODDED LAWNS**

	Water	Mowing	Supplemental Fertilizer	Other Application	Other Cultural Practice
<b>0-10 days</b>	15-20 minutes per day per area	No	No	No	No
<b>10-21 days</b>	30 Minutes every other day per area	First cut after 12 to 14 days	No	No	No
<b>3-6 weeks</b>	1" of water per week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	Fertilize at rate of 3/4 lb. slow release nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.	No	No
<b>22-28 days</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
<b>6 weeks and beyond</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
<b>7-10 weeks</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	Next regular application	<b>First pesticide application</b>	No
<b>3 months</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			No
<b>6 months</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			<b>Aerate</b>
<b>1 year</b>	1" a week	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			Dethatch/ Verti-cut
<b>Notes</b>	Sod lawn installation requires diligent watering for longer periods of time to encourage establishment. If water is running out from under the sod, the soil is saturated.	Do not water the lawn 1-2 days preceding mowing. Continue watering cycle after first cut.	Apply fertilizer at half the normal rate in shady areas.	Make spot weed control applications as needed, <u>no sooner than</u> 10 weeks from installation date. Use pesticides sparingly, and only as needed	Aerating at least once per year is advisable. Dethatching is necessary in sunnier lawn areas and may not be necessary in shady areas.

Adapted from [http://www.lawnlad.com/upload/learning\\_center/NewSodLawnCare.pdf](http://www.lawnlad.com/upload/learning_center/NewSodLawnCare.pdf)