



Homeowner Guide to a New Lawn

Your lawn has been seeded and fertilized with top quality seed and fertilizer. Proper care and maintenance are necessary in order to assure a proper germination and establishment of turf. Successful seed germination depends on a few days of special care. Taking the time to do it right the first time will save money and frustration. Germination time depends on many factors, including temperature and the amount of moisture the new seed receives. New seedlings can usually be visible in approximately 10 days with moderate temperatures. Many people believe that if your new lawn has been hydro seeded, it will require less watering than if it was conventionally seeded. That is not true. Hydro seed requires just as much moisture for germination as conventional seeding.

Watering -To assure proper germination, water regularly. It is important to water your new seed deeply to encourage grass roots to grow more deeply into the soil, making the turf more heat and drought tolerant. As a general rule, you should apply approximately one inch of water each application. Obviously, Slopes and soil types need to be considered in the process. Steep slopes should be carefully watered as to minimize erosion and washing of seed. Course soils such as sandy-loam soils will require more water, more frequently than dense clay soils. Placing a coffee can under your sprinkler and timing how long it takes for one inch to accumulate in the can is a good way to help you in your task. Then you will know that the sprinkler needs to stay in a spot for “X” amount of time before moving it to a new location. Repeat as necessary. Do not stop watering when the first seedlings appear. Your lawn was seeded with grass seed mix. Annual/perennial ryegrasses germinate the quickest, while bluegrass often takes 14 days or longer, depending on conditions.

Mowing- Mow your new grass when it’s height reaches 3 inches. Mow your grass to a height of 2 inches. Make sure that you do not water immediately before mowing. Doing so will make grass blades wet and stick to the mower as well as make the soil wet and make it easier to rut while mowing.

Fertilization- One month after the grass is fully germinated, you may apply *Lawn Food, Plus Iron*. We recommend the Fertilome brand. This will help your lawn establish more vigorous roots and also give the turf a deep green color.

Long Term Turf Care

Long-term watering: the correct way- The correct way to water a mature lawn is simple: water *thoroughly, but infrequently*. Watering deeply encourages the grass roots to grow more deeply into the soil, making the grass more heat and drought tolerant. Over

watering causes serious turf problems and can lead to disease and unwanted weeds. A lawn is more forgiving if you underwater than over water. Besides, a mature lawn will not die if you underwater it.

Mowing- Mow your turf at 2 ½ to 3 inches high. Mowing at this height will result in fewer weeds and a healthier turf, as well as less need for watering, as the soil is better shaded by longer turf. Clippings do not contribute to thatch productions. Clippings should not be collected unless they are long and smother the grass. Leaving the clippings recycles the nutrients back onto the lawn, saving fertilizer costs.

Fertilization- It is important to have a fertilizer program, whether you hire the work done or do it yourself. Contact a lawn service or visit a reputable garden center to get set up.

Aerification- The purpose of aerification is to loosen up compacted soils. Compaction comes from two sources. New lawns can become compacted during construction and may benefit if aerated the first two years. Vehicle traffic, intense wear from dogs or under a swing set can also compact soils. Studies show that core aerification is the method that provides the most benefits, and at least two passes is a must.

Thank your again for choosing **Schulte Landscaping** for your landscape project.