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HYDRO SEEDING

WATERING

For grass seed to germinate, it must stay moist continuously for four to eight days.

For the first seven days, water twice each day. Usually 25–30 minutes on each section of the lawn is average, but your lawn may need more or less depending on slope, soil conditions, and weather. Hot weather may require more frequent watering, and a sloping lawn may need longer, slower watering because of runoff, for example. The lawn should be saturated—wet enough that you can't walk on it without leaving footprints. You may want to start your watering at the point that's farthest from the house and work in, to avoid walking on the wet lawn.

After the first seven days, water heavily, but only those areas where grass is not visible. Where grass has appeared, limit watering to one inch a week, preferably in the morning hours.

After grass has germinated and is growing well, normally three to four weeks, water as you would an established lawn. Aim for about an inch each week, preferably in the morning hours. You can judge the amount by placing a tuna can, or similar container, in the area being watered. When an inch of water has collected, that area has had enough and you are ready to go on to the next area.

MOWING

- Mow your lawn as soon as it reaches a height of three and a half inches.
- Make sure your mower blades are sharp.
- Set your mower height at three inches and leave it there.
- Bag the clippings. Do not rake newly seeded lawns.
- Mow your lawn on a regular basis, about every seven to ten days, or as growth warrants.

FERTILIZING

The fertilizer applied during installation will last through the initial growth period.

Apply the second fertilizer treatment about six to seven weeks after installation. The grass may show spots of yellowing, a sign of nitrogen deficiency, a side effect of heavy watering. Also new lawns that are freshly backfilled and graded are often not uniform in soil type and structure. This can also contribute to yellowing of the lawn in spots. Unless the weather is hot and dry, a supplementary application of nitrogen when these spots appear will boost the grass toward quicker maturity. Lawns should be fertilized four to five times a year to become thick and lush.

WEED CONTROL

Weeds often appear in a new lawn, especially one that is planted in the spring. The presence of these weeds sometimes initiates frantic efforts to eliminate them, but in new lawns, it is best to let them be. Many of the weeds that accompany grass germination in the spring are annuals. This seed is constantly present in the soil. If the weeds naturally grow tall, regular mowing will be enough to control them. If they are low-growing varieties, such as crabgrass, they will likely stay until fall. Although they do compete with the grass, normally the grass plants will coexist with these weeds, and the following spring, their germination can be chemically prevented. Spraying weeds with chemicals in new grass is not recommended until fully established as immature grass is susceptible to chemical damage.