



**J.W. TOWNSEND**  
LANDSCAPES

## Watering Instructions for Newly Seeded/Over-Seeded Lawns

Even the best seed planted in properly prepared soil must have a **continuous supply of moisture** to germinate and grow into grass. We recommend the following watering program:

### Initial Watering Program

Have your hoses and sprinklers ready to connect before mulching begins. Avoid leaky connections. It may facilitate watering to have a Y-type connection at the faucet outlet which permits attachment of two hoses from one faucet. The aim in this initial watering period is to keep the seed bed **moist**. Once-a-day watering may be sufficient, but in the hot summer, it may be necessary to water three times per day. Avoid "puddling" or "drowning" and washing, but water thoroughly. Continue watering in this manner until the new grass is about 1" tall. Then begin watering every 2-3 days, but more heavily for deeper saturation. This will vary depending upon the time of year. Avoid letting the new turf get dry. When the new grass is about 2.5" tall and ready for its first mowing, reduce watering to two times per week, but again more heavily each time. It is possible to overwater, so be careful to monitor the soil moisture so that drowning does not occur.

### Initial Mowing

Mow at 2.5" as soon as **any portion** reaches this height or higher. Removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at one time can harm the seedling plants. After establishment, mow at 3". **Always** mow with a very sharp blade.

### Fertilization & Straw

Your newly seeded lawn should have been fertilized at the time of installation. Depending upon the time of year, your new lawn may benefit from additional applications. Please contact us to find out if your lawn would benefit from additional applications. If you have signed up for our Aeration and Overseeding program, then the additional fertilizations are included and already on our schedule. If straw is used, keep the straw in place and do not permit the wind to create bare patches - **do not remove the straw**.

The above guidelines are just that—guidelines and will vary depending upon the time of year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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**Watering Instructions for Newly Sodded Lawns**

Proper watering is very important for the establishment, health, and appearance of your newly sodded lawn, especially during the first few weeks as your sod begins to take root. Frequency and volume of water will depend upon current weather conditions and time of year; below are recommendations to help you establish your new lawn.

1. The initial watering is one of the most important. On the day the sod is installed, the entire area should be watered enough so that not only is the new sod wet, but that the first 3-4" of soil below the sod is moist as well. Be sure to avoid "puddling" or "drowning" the area. You may need to stop watering, wait about 30 minutes, and begin watering again. Make sure you have plenty of hoses and sprinklers on hand. When setting up your sprinklers, make sure you are watering all areas of the sod including the corners and along all edges.
2. During most of the year, you should water daily for the first 5 days. In very hot conditions, you may need to water twice per day. Once you have established an adequate level of moisture 3-4" down, the goal now is to keep the sod itself moist and not to let it get dry.
3. After about 5 days, you can stop watering for a day or two, depending on the time of year. Again, you do not want the sod itself to get dry. At this point you should be monitoring your sod and watering every 2-5 days, depending upon the time of year and temperatures. This should be done for the next 2-3 weeks.
4. Most lawns, even established lawns, benefit from 1 inch of rainfall per week. Your lawn now should perform well using this rule of thumb. Infrequent and deep watering at this point will help encourage root growth and development.
5. You should mow your sod as soon as it is tall enough to mow. Before mowing for the first time, hold off on watering for a day or two to give the soil a chance to dry enough that you are not leaving footprints or creating indentations with your mower.
6. Your sod will have been fertilized at the time of installation. Depending on the time of year, it may be a good idea to fertilize it again about 30 days after installation. Please give us a call for recommendations.

The above guidelines are just that—guidelines and will vary depending upon the time of year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.