



Landscape Care Instructions

Seeded Lawns

Proper care for your newly seeded lawn has many variables. For example, sandy soils with little organic matter will require more water, while heavy clay soils will require less. Other things to consider are types of soil, seed used, time of the planting season, weather conditions and shade conditions.

Water a newly seeded lawn to keep it moist, being careful not to allow standing water. Over watering can wash away seeds, cause seeds to rot before they germinate, increase the chance of disease, or slow the growth of new grass.

Light watering every day for a period of 10–14 days is generally sufficient as long as the soil was moist at seeding time. Early morning watering will minimize evaporation and help newly seeded areas through the day's heat. As grass begins to grow, reduce frequency (during weeks 3 thru 5) and increase duration till you reach 1-1/2" of water per week (that is, from a combination of natural rainfall and manually watering). Ideally, this will be done two to three times a week.

When grass reaches 2" high, water only enough to keep the ground from drying out, as newly planted grass needs moisture to survive until it is mature.

Apply starter fertilizer (19-19-19) every 30 days, until you cut your lawn for the first time. Most lawns require an average of four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet annually. This is equivalent to four applications using "normal" rates listed on most fertilizer bags, approximately one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Cut your new lawn regularly, but do not cut your grass lower than 3" until the lawn is fully established. You may want to 'string-trim' fast growing weeds and portions of your lawn that grow quicker than other portions. String-trimming versus mowing will help prevent removal and/or dislodging of seeds from soil.

Do not apply weed and feed products for at least one year.

After your lawn has been established, apply a slow release fertilizer using the instructions on the product label. Water your lawn after applying fertilizers. This practice increases the effectiveness of the fertilizer as it brings fertilizer granules down to come in contact with the soil.

NOTE: It can take a couple of years for a lawn to become well established. The care you give to the success of your lawn is vital for its overall health and natural progression, from seed to a mature looking lawn.

Sodded Lawns

Proper care for your newly sodded lawn has many variables including the type of soil, sod used, time of the planting season, weather and shade conditions.

Water newly sodded lawns two times heavily every day for the first 10 days.

After 10 days, reduce the watering schedule to once per day. This will allow the roots to develop and reach into the soil. Then every other day for nine days, then every three days for a month.

Watch the weather. Hot, dry weather will require more watering.

Keep in mind that excess water can drown sod in poorly drained areas, or cause erosion between or under pieces of sod on slopes.

30-days after initial planting of your sod, apply a starter fertilizer (19-19-19). We suggest you purchase a good quality broadcast spreader (available at most hardware stores). Most lawns require an average of 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet annually. This is equivalent to four applications using "normal" rates listed on most fertilizer bags, approximately one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

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Shrubs and Trees

Caring for your plants and trees can vary greatly depending on the soil, type of plant species, time of planting season and weather conditions. It is crucial to keep a close eye on newly planted shrubs and trees and keep the following ideas in mind:

The best time to water plants is early morning, not during the heat of the day.

Water shrubs and trees thoroughly and regularly the first year following planting. Check the soil with your fingers to determine how dry conditions are. Once established, most plants need little watering. A good soaking once a week during dry periods should be plenty.

Do not over-water plants as too much water is just as bad as not enough water.

Apply fertilizer to plants in late fall or early spring. Do this annually when plants are small and rapid vegetative growth is desired. As plants reach a desired size, reduce or eliminate fertilizer to limit growth.

Mulch all new plants to conserve soil moisture, reduce soil temperature extremes, help control weeds, and make plantings more attractive. For best results, mulch material should be 3 – 4 inches deep around the plant, but not up against plant stems.

Prune plants as needed to maintain natural form or specific design intent. Generally, prune to remove dead, damaged, or diseased portions of a plant. Preferred time of pruning for trees is late winter-early spring before new growth begins. For deciduous shrubs prune after flowering for spring flowering species, and late winter for summer flowering species. Evergreen plants should be pruned in late winter-early spring or after new growth has hardened.

If you have any questions, please call Glacier Landscape at 608.845.5111 for further instructions.

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