



# Establishing Your Hydroseeded Lawn

Thank you for choosing Greener Horizon for your hydroseeding. Your new lawn has everything it needs to give it a good start, the highest quality grass seed, fertilizer, and wood fiber mulch. We use a seed blend formulated for Massachusetts lawns, and a high quality, balanced starter fertilizer. The wood fiber mulch is 100% free of any dye, and it retains moisture and helps to protect the seeds. This will decompose to a natural fertilizer. By following the maintenance instructions below, your lawn can provide you with the beauty, value and results you desire. Your hydroseed will mature to become lush, thick and full after 6-12 months of proper care.

## **WATERING**

Proper watering of your hydroseeded lawn is essential for germination and starting your lawn off correctly. It is critical to follow these watering instructions.

- Water frequently enough to keep the soil moist, but not flood areas or create run-off. Depending on weather, temperature and soil type, your lawn may need to be watered several times per day. Cool, damp days may only need one watering per day whereas hot summer days may need watering 3-4 times per day for short durations. It may be helpful to use an electronic water timer to automate the process.
- Too little water slows the establishment of the grass. If the seed starts to germinate and is allowed to dry out, the seedlings can die.
- Too much water can cause puddling and washouts. Once germinated, too much water can cause the grass seedlings to have a weak root system (due to not enough oxygen being supplied to the roots). This slows establishment and can result in a sparse lawn.
- After the first or second mowing, reduce the frequency of watering to 1-3 times per week, depending on the weather conditions. Watering less frequently and for a longer period of time promotes deeper rooting.
- The seed should germinate in 5-10 days under optimum conditions. Under adverse conditions it may take 14-21 days to germinate.

## **MOWING**

- Your new lawn should be mowed when the grass blades are 2.5-3" high. This is usually about 4-6 weeks after germination. Keeping grass longer is better in the summer, it helps the root zone to stay shaded and cooler. Shorter grass for wet seasons helps reduce fungus.
- A push mower should be used for the first 3 or 4 mowings, than larger equipment can be used.
- A good rule of thumb is to never mow off more than 1/3 of the height of the grass in any one mowing. Should the grass get too tall before it is mowed, raise the mower cutting height and work back down to the proper height over the next couple of mowings.
- Mow frequently. Mowing encourages the formation of tillers (branching out at the base of the plant). Increased tillering means your lawn fills in more quickly.
- Be careful when mowing a newly seeded lawn. Keep your mower blades sharp for a clean cut. Set the mower at a slower speed to reduce the chance of pulling or "sucking up" seedlings.



- If the grass gets matted down due to being wet or damp, try to gently stand the grass up again with a blower, if possible. That will help it dry out and prevent rot.

#### **FERTILIZING**

- Your new lawn has been hydroseeded with a starter fertilizer.
- Apply a balanced fertilizer or a starter fertilizer after the first or second mowing. Follow the manufacture's recommended rates.
- Apply the fertilizer when the lawn is dry, then water thoroughly to reduce the chance of burning.
- Once your lawn is established, follow a fertilizer maintenance program. Fertilize 4-6 times per year.

#### **TRAFFIC**

Keep people and pet traffic to a minimum for the first 2-3 months.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

We have hydroseeded your lawn with a grass seed mixture free of weed seeds. Weed seeds present in the soil can grow in your lawn area. DO NOT use any herbicides (weed killers) on your lawn for at least three months. Although it takes time, weed removal by hand is the best practice during this time. Products such as Weed-B-Gone and Weed n' Feed are meant to kill broadleaf weeds, not grasses, but they can harm the tender new grass seedlings. If you need weed control after three months; we recommend an herbicide spray so that you can target areas in the lawn rather than apply the herbicide to the whole lawn. Mowing can help prevent the spread of weeds.

*If you have any questions or can provide you with further information,  
please call our office at 508-947-0225.*

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