



Basic Maintenance Instructions for Newly Installed Lawns

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ARE GUIDELINES & SHOULD BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED TO ENCOURAGE PROPER PLANT HEALTH, VIGOR AND ESTABLISHMENT: These are not a guarantee!

1) Watering:

Water is the single most important factor in the success of a newly installed lawn. The top $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " of soil must remain moist at all times to allow for adequate seed germination. Generally, sprinkling a given area in 20-minute intervals should provide adequate moisture. Once the lawn shows $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - 2" of growth, watering should be done at longer, less frequent intervals. This will promote deeper root development, making the turf area less susceptible to drought.

2) Fertilization:

Fertilizer is vital for vigorous lawn growth. Controlled release granular fertilizer was applied at the time of installation. The lawn should be fertilized again after it has been cut twice. Clearwater Landscape recommends using a "turf builder" type fertilizer in spring and fall, and a "balanced" fertilizer (ie: 12-12-12) twice throughout the summer months. Carefully read and follow the instructions that accompany the fertilizer used. Do not panic when the weeds appear. Almost all soil, including the expensive screened topsoil, is full of weed seeds. Although weeds may appear to be a problem, they shade the new seedlings and help conserve surface moisture. Many weeds succumb after a program of weekly mowing has begun. The rest can be cleared out about four weeks after installation, by using fertilizer and weed control, or prevented by using pre-emergent controls in early spring.

3) Mowing:

Mow the lawn when it reaches $2\frac{1}{2}$ " - 3" in height, and maintain that height at all times. Be sure the mower blades remain sharp. Only cut a new lawn on dry days so the root system is not disturbed. Clearwater Landscape recommends using a grass catcher for the first 2 - 3 mowings to pick up clippings and loose straw mulch.

4) General Information:

It is important to remember that blue grasses are slow to germinate and spread. One should not expect a lush lawn within the first growing season. Installing sod can speed up this process