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WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR NEWLY SEEDED LAWN

Whether you have had a new lawn seeded or an existing lawn overseeded or patch seeded, the basic care requirements are much the same.

1. Do not allow the seed to dry out at any time. Once the seed is moistened and the germination process begun, you must continue to keep the seed moist or it will fail to germinate and die. This means:
 - a) Sprinkle the seeded sections each and every non-rainy day. Do it at least once in the morning and again as often as needed to keep the shallowly planted seed moist at all times. Don't miss any spots. Be vigilant in warm, sunny weather.
 - b) Apply the water in a gentle spray. Water to moisten only the top one-half inch of soil. Avoid overwatering and puddling. This will dislodge the seed. Hand watering works well or use an oscillating sprinkler for only about 5 minutes in each location.
 - c) Keep watering each non-rainy day until the grass is about one inch high; then cut back to watering every three or four non-rainy days, but now water deeper. Apply about one-half inch of water during each watering. (Use a glass in the watering pattern to measure watering amount. Be sure it is at the edge of the spray pattern.) When the turf is about 3 inches tall, cut back to one, one inch watering per non-rainy week for about 3-4 weeks or until cool, fall weather. If you have seeded in the spring, you should keep the reseeded section of lawn watered all summer.
2. Keep all traffic off of the lawn. This is particularly important for new or completely renovated lawns. Overseeded lawns can tolerate a very small amount of foot traffic. The young seeds need protection from all traffic. Fence off the area if you must until the grass is 1-2 inches tall. It takes seeded lawns one full year to establish well, so only gradually allow increased foot traffic during the first season. The more traffic, the more lawn grass stress and therefore the less dense the new lawn.
3. Start mowing with a sharp mower blade as soon as the grass reaches about 3 inches in height. You can set the mower at 2 inches for the first cut or two but set the mower at three inches for the rest of the season. Never cut off more than one inch of blade each time. Mow often but mow lightly. This will encourage the lawn to grow dense and full while protecting it against stress from cutting off too much of the leaf blade. **Always use a sharp mower blade!** Get the blade resharpened regularly (after 4-6 hours of mowing) or keep a garden file around to touch up the blade after each 2 hours of use. Dull blades shred leaves and encourage fungus attacks.
4. Within 3 weeks, a starter fertilizer needs to be applied. You can apply this yourself or if you would like us to do this for you please give us a call right away so we can put it on our schedule.

