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## **What to do now that you have had your grass seed planted**

In order for the newly seeded lawn to be successful, it is very important to properly maintain it during its germination period and beyond. The seed germination process takes about 5-10 days to begin, depending on water and temperature. Higher temperatures enable seeds to germinate more quickly so this time will vary. Complete germination of all the different types of seeds in the blend can take up to 1 ½ months.

**The most important thing to do is to keep the lawn area moist the majority of the time.** Giving the seeded areas a light watering 3 times throughout the day, rather than one heavy watering, is key to seed growth. This watering schedule should be maintained for two weeks or longer to help ensure maximum seed germination. Areas in the shade will retain moisture much better than sunny areas. Our experience has taught us that sunny areas will need much more watering than shady areas in hot weather. If you cannot push a screwdriver into the soil extremely easily, the ground is not moist enough. It is very important that the watering takes place during the day and **NOT** at night or late evening. Cool night air allows excess water to stay on the lawn causing fatal blights to form. If the new grass seems to be dying or showing any problems, please call us as soon as possible so that a treatment can be immediately applied to save the area.

After two weeks or after the majority of the area has sprouted, continue to water the new grass daily, only now give it one long deep watering each day. This will cause the water to soak down into the soil further and encourage deeper root growth. Do not fertilize or cut the lawn for at least the first month after installation. We fertilize the area lightly upon the initial seeding. After this time, it is very important that the lawn be fertilized routinely to ensure that it grows strong. We recommend hiring a turf care company to do fertilization and weed control. Do not cut the new grass until it is all at least 4 inches tall or is lying over. Preferably, it is better to wait as long as possible before you cut the first time. It is also better not to water just before mowing to prevent the mower wheels from pushing into the wet topsoil. The first cut should be done at the highest setting on your walk-behind push mower and with **SHARP** blades to prevent pulling and tearing of the grass. Also, be sure to remove the clippings the first time you cut your new lawn.

If your grass is planted in the fall, it is very important to keep falling leaves off of your newly seeded areas and new grass. The leaves can very quickly choke out and smother the new grass. If you need to rake the leaves off, please take care and be gentle as not to pull the new grass out of the ground or disturb the seed bed. A leaf blower set on medium works very well to accomplish this.

If your grass is planted over the winter or late fall, watering is not required. The grass will germinate in the spring. You can start to water as outlined above when spring germination occurs.

## **What to expect of your new lawn pre & post seeding**

**It can take up to one year or more for a new lawn to fully establish itself and to reach full maturity.** You can expect to find bare spots in it up to the size of a softball. These will fill in over time as the grass grows and spreads. Small rocks and roots are also normal in freshly prepared topsoil. They naturally provide small pockets of air in the soil. Some weeds are also normal. These should be left alone the first month or two before you start up a weed control program. A proper watering, weed control, and fertilization program is necessary to achieve optimal success of a newly seeded area. If straw blanket was used in the installation process, you will also notice a thin degradable plastic netting in your lawn. Do not worry about it; the plastic and the straw woven into it will break down in about a year. A sharp and properly maintained mower blade will cut right through this, rather than pull it up. **Remember, it takes more than just proper installation to get a nice lawn. It is very important that you continue to maintain your new grass properly in order to get the high quality turf that you want.**

# ISBIR

**CONSTRUCTION·LANDSCAPE**

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The following images show the results of not following the instructions and then following them perfectly.  
Both projects were installed exactly the same.

