

# New Lawn Care

## WATERING

Your lawn has been seeded and mulched with a proven high quality seed and mulch. This is a most critical time period for your new lawn. The moisture content of the soil must be maintained daily. Plan on checking the amount of moisture several times each day until the grass comes in. Do not over-water to the point where water puddles stand and remain for any length of time on the soil's surface. Sandy soils, and dry, windy weather require more frequent waterings. These situations will have to be monitored closely by you.

As the grass begins to grow, water for longer periods of time and less frequently. This encourages roots to go deeper for moisture, therefore developing a better root system and a more hardy plant. Once established, your lawn should receive 1" of water per week, including natural rainfall. This can be accomplished by watering three times per week, 1/3" of water per watering. Again, adjust this rate, based on the soil type.

## WEEDS

All soils contain weed seeds which are going to emerge along with the new grass seedlings. This is especially true of spring and summer seedings. This problem can be controlled by mowing and chemical controls after the new lawn begins to mature in eight to twelve weeks.

## MOWING

Your new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass is high enough to cut. Set your mower at 3" height. Do not mow the new seedlings too short. Try to mow when the grass and soil are fairly dry to avoid wheel marks and clumping. By mowing frequently, you will reduce weed competition, allow maximum germination of seeds, and help to produce lateral growth in the plant crown, which will cause thin areas to fill out faster.

## FERTILIZING

When the seed and mulch were applied, a starter fertilizer was included. Four to five weeks after seeding a second application of 20-10-10 or a similar fertilizer will need to be applied at the rate of 50 lbs. per 10,000 sq. ft. Weed control should not be applied at that time to avoid damaging the new grass seedlings.

## LONG TERM CARE

Your established lawn should be fertilized four times per year. Once in mid to late April, June, August, and one fall feeding in October. Use a proven fertilizer such as 20-10-10 and apply at the rate of 50 lbs. per 10,000 sq. ft. With experience, adjust the fertilizer rate to meet your own lawn's requirements. As a general rule, fertilize your lawn to provide strong vigorous growth, but do not over-fertilize, especially with excess nitrogen, as overly stimulated growth will cause the plant to be susceptible to lawn disease. Crabgrass control is accomplished in the form of a pre-emergent and should be applied between the blooming of the forsythia and lilacs. Broadleaf weed control can be applied during the spring or fall.