

Establishing a Healthy Lawn

WATERING

Newly seeded areas need to be watered daily to germinate and develop into a thick, lush lawn. The following steps explain how to water for your lawn's specific needs:

1. Lightly water the lawn 3 times a day until you begin to see green grass. We recommend you water twice in the early morning and once in the evening when temperatures are lower. This allows less water to evaporate. It's only necessary to water for approximately 15 minutes each time.

*Remember, do not over water your lawn. If you saturate the area, the seed will rot.

2. After the seeds have germinated and green grass covers the area, discontinue the evening watering. This allows new foliage to dry out before nightfall so that it's less prone to disease and insects.
3. After about 6-8 weeks of watering you should only need to water every 2 or 3 days.
4. After a new lawn is established, maintain a weekly deep watering to encourage root growth.

* It's important to remember that watering requirements depend on Mother Nature. You may need to increase or decrease watering based on current weather conditions.

MOWING

Newly established lawns shouldn't be mowed for approximately 6 weeks. Be careful not to scalp the grass when you do begin mowing the lawn—and only remove 1/3 of grass blade each time you mow. And remember, the more frequently you cut your grass, the quicker it will thicken.

Mow at a height of at least 2.5" (3" is even better). It's best to leave the grass clippings on the lawn; they'll decompose naturally and provide vital nutrients for the soil.

AERATING & THATCHING

Aerating should be done in the fall. It opens up core spaces and allows oxygen to reach the root zone. That helps promote deeper root growth, resulting in a healthier lawn.

Thatching should be done during the spring or fall when the grass grows more rapidly. This removes the dead debris that collects at the base of the grass and allows more room for the lawn to spread. Also, thatching during the cooler months of the growing season allows the grass to fill in the open spaces before unwanted weeds show up.

FERTILIZING

It's important to follow a thorough weed and feed program for your lawn, keeping in mind that fertilizing should be based on a soil test. Your lawn is a very heavy feeder and you'll want to provide enough fertilizer throughout the growing season so that it can maintain its vigor.