

A GUIDE TO CARING FOR YOUR

HYDROSEED 101

Thank you for choosing Sunshine Landscaping for your hydroseeding! Your lawn is off to a great start and with proper post-application care, you'll be enjoying a vibrant, beautiful lawn in no time. This guide covers all the essential steps—from watering and fertilizing to mowing and weed control—to ensure your lawn grows healthy and strong.

WATERING

Proper care for a hydroseeded lawn starts with keeping the seeds consistently moist. New seeds are especially vulnerable to dryness and desiccation which can inhibit their growth. To protect against premature drying, establish a regular watering schedule, typically 2 to 5 times a day, depending on the climate. On particularly hot or dry days, monitor the lawn closely for any signs of drying and add an extra watering cycle if needed to maintain moisture.

★ APPLICATION DAY:

Avoid walking on hydroseeded areas until the slurry has fully dried, indicated by its lighter green color. Once dry, you can walk on it as needed to water. Divert gutter downspouts away from the seeded areas to prevent washouts. Minimize traffic, including pets, in hydroseeded areas for the first month.

1 FIRST WEEK:

Make sure your watering routine is keeping all hydroseeded areas adequately moist, especially those in full sun that dry out faster. If the green color starts fading to tan, it's a sign your lawn needs more water. Keep people and pets off the hydroseeded areas during the germination period to give your grass the best chance to grow. This is also a perfect time to tune up your mower and sharpen the blade!

2 SECOND WEEK:

Continue keeping the seed moist without overwatering. You should start seeing some growth now. Remember, even with visible growth, many seeds are still germinating and will continue to do so in the coming weeks. If you don't see any growth yet, it could be due to weather conditions; the soil temperature needs to be at least 55°F for the seed to germinate. Once growth begins, keep the new plants moist along with the rest of the seed that hasn't sprouted yet.

3 THIRD WEEK:

If growing conditions are favorable, you should start to see uniformity in the grass. Bare spots likely indicate insufficient water. If your grass thrives in shady areas but struggles in direct sun, you might be losing moisture to evaporation; increase watering frequency for these areas. If you notice grass turning brown and lying down in circular patterns, there may be a disease.

4 FOURTH WEEK:

By the end of the fourth week, most of the seed should have germinated, completing the germination period. If no more seed is visible, you can transition to a "deep and infrequent" watering schedule and aim to provide at least 1-2 inches of water per week. The first mowing will likely be needed by the end of this week if the grass reaches about 3 inches tall in any area. More information on mowing can be found below.



Water early in the morning or late in the evening when it's cooler to support optimal growth conditions for your lawn. If the temperature is above 85 degrees, and humidity is high, wait until the heat of the day has passed to water. This will prevent stress on new seedlings from rapid water evaporation and potential fungal growth.

MOWING

Most hydroseeded lawns take between 5 and 7 days to sprout. Generally, this means lawns are ready to mow about 3-4 weeks after application. Once you start seeing blades of grass between 3 and 4 inches high, it's time for the first mow. Even if not all the grass sprouts are this tall, mowing when any of them reach this height will stimulate growth and promote a healthy, lush lawn.



POST HYDROSEED APPLICATION MOWING TIPS:



01 First Mow

Start mowing when you see grass sprouts begin to reach 3 inches in height. Usually 3-4 weeks after hydroseeding.



02 Blade Height

Set mower blades to remove only the top 1/3 of the grass. Removing more can stress the grass and hinder growth.



03 Keep It Dry

Make sure your lawn is dry before mowing to ensure a clean cut and to prevent damage to young grass.



04 Frequency

Mow early and often. Mowing frequently will promote new growth resulting in thicker, healthier turf.



05 Sharp & Slow

Keep your mower blades sharp for a clean cut. Set the mower at a slow speed to avoid pulling up seedlings.



06 Clippings

Either collect grass clippings or distribute them evenly to avoid smothering your new seedlings.

SEED & FERTILIZER

Your hydroseeded lawn has already received a starter fertilizer in the slurry, so you can wait about a month before applying any additional fertilizer. However, if you notice yellowing or other signs of nutrient deficiency, it may be time to boost your lawn's health with extra nutrients. Once you've fertilized, you should see improvements in the lawn's color and thickness. For optimal growth, plan to reapply fertilizer about once a month, always following the instructions on the product to avoid over-fertilizing.

Two weeks after hydroseeding, we highly recommend applying an 18-24-12 starter fertilizer to help support your lawn's growth. This fertilizer blend provides essential nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, which are key to establishing a strong root system. Be sure to water thoroughly after application to prevent burning the grass. Continue fertilizing monthly, and as always, follow your chosen products guidelines. If needed, lightly overseed thin areas after 4-5 weeks to ensure even coverage.



Though it may be tempting to control weeds early, you should avoid using weed killers or herbicides on your lawn until the grass is well-established. Weed control products can damage young grass seedlings. Early weeds are normal and will typically be crowded out as the grass thickens. Any persistent weeds can be easily removed by hand until the lawn is fully developed.