

SURFACE **TO** SOIL CO.

LAWN RENOVATION & TURF ESTABLISHMENT

Hydroseed Care Guide

Your premium hydroseed application includes quality grass seed, hydraulic mulch, starter fertilizer, tackifier to help reduce movement and washout, and a moisture-management additive designed to help retain moisture around the seed during establishment.

Hydroseed is a live seeding application and must stay consistently moist during germination. The green mulch is biodegradable and will fade as it dries. Light overspray can generally be rinsed from hard surfaces with water.

DAY 1

Keep all foot traffic and pets off the seeded area until the mulch has dried for the first time. Once the surface changes from bright green to a lighter, dry appearance, you may carefully enter the area as needed for watering. Redirect gutter downspouts and concentrated drainage away from seeded soil to help prevent washouts.

WEEK 1

Evaluate your watering coverage every day. Full-sun areas, slopes, edges, and areas near pavement often dry out first. Keep the seedbed uniformly moist without creating puddles or runoff. The green mulch color may begin fading toward tan; this is normal.

WEEK 2

Continue keeping the seed and young seedlings moist. You should begin seeing germination, but different grass varieties can emerge at different times. Even after grass becomes visible, unsprouted seed still needs moisture. Cool weather can slow germination.

WEEK 3

Growth should begin looking more uniform under favorable conditions. Thin or slow areas are often the first places to dry out, especially in direct sun. Increase watering frequency in those areas as needed while continuing to avoid runoff.

WEEK 4

Most seed should be germinated by this point under good growing conditions. When the lawn is established enough that little or no seed is visible and the grass is approaching mowing height, begin transitioning from frequent light watering to deeper, less frequent watering.

As a starting point, water about 2 times per day below 70°F and about 3 times per day above 70°F . Adjust for sun, wind, soil type, shade, and rainfall. The goal is a continuously moist seedbed - not standing water.	Once grass is roughly 3 inches tall , reduce frequency and water more deeply. A typical transition is morning watering every 2-3 days, or every 1-2 days during hotter weather. Reduce watering during cool or wet periods.

Important: Avoid puddling, runoff, and long periods of saturation. During hot, humid weather, finish the final watering several hours before dark when practical. Watering needs can change daily, so use the moisture level of the seedbed - not just a timer - as your guide.

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Ongoing Care & Establishment

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

If you have an irrigation system, 3-4 short cycles per day may be appropriate during warm germination weather. A common starting point is 5-10 minutes per zone, spaced every 2-3 hours during the daytime, but actual run time depends on your sprinkler output, soil, slope, and sun exposure. Adjust until the entire seedbed remains moist without pooling.

FERTILIZING

Starter fertilizer is included with the hydroseed application to support early establishment. Around 3-4 weeks after seeding, the lawn may benefit from a quality nitrogen-forward fertilizer to maintain color and encourage thickening. Follow the product label and avoid over-application. If you use a lawn care company, tell them the lawn is newly seeded before any treatment is applied.

FIRST MOWING

Mow when the tallest established areas reach roughly 3 inches and the soil is firm enough that the mower will not rut or disturb seedlings. Use a sharp blade, mow when the grass is dry, and never remove more than one-third of the blade height in a single mowing. Regular mowing helps the new turf thicken.

WEED CONTROL

Do not apply standard weed killers to a newly seeded lawn before it is mature enough for the product label. As a general guideline, wait until the lawn has been mowed at least 3 times before considering most post-emergent weed controls. Always read the label for new-seeding restrictions. If you are unsure, use a licensed lawn care professional.

WHAT TO EXPECT

With favorable soil temperatures, moisture, and weather, germination occurs gradually and the lawn should continue filling in over the first 4-6 weeks. Different seed varieties germinate at different speeds. A newly seeded lawn usually needs several mowings before it begins to look dense and uniform, and root development will continue well beyond the first month.

THIN OR BARE AREAS

First check moisture coverage. Areas that stay drier than the surrounding lawn commonly lag behind. Also look for washout, runoff channels, traffic, compaction, excessive shade, or standing water. Some minor variation during establishment is normal.

YOUR PART AFTER APPLICATION

The success of a hydroseeded lawn depends heavily on watering and aftercare after we leave the property. Keep the application consistently moist, minimize traffic, control concentrated drainage, and follow the mowing and treatment guidance above. Weather, irrigation coverage, soil conditions, erosion, washouts, pets, foot traffic, and improper watering can all affect establishment.

Questions about your new lawn? Contact Surface to Soil Co. before making major changes to watering, fertilization, or weed-control practices.