

# New Lawn Care Guide

## General Guidelines

- ✦ Your new lawn is a living thing, which means it needs lots of care and attention in the early stages to ensure it gets the best start and will grow into a fully-fledged healthy lawn.
- ✦ After the hydroseed mixture is laid down, nothing will happen for a while – don't panic, this is normal. Depending on time of year and conditions, growth should start to become apparent in around 7-10 days.
- ✦ Until growth is visible, ensure there is no foot and pet traffic on the hydroseeded area. As the lawn becomes established, minimise foot and pet traffic on the new lawn area.
- ✦ Do not allow leaves or other debris to accumulate on the lawn whilst it gets established.
- ✦ Above all – please pay close attention to the watering requirements! If you don't water your new lawn, it will result in slow, patchy growth and there is a good chance it will completely die.

## Watering

**It's very important to keep the mulch mixture moist while the grass becomes established. The most common reason for a newly sown lawn not being successful is lack of moisture during the germination and establishment phase.**

- ✦ **Weeks 1-3** – water the lawn daily. Avoid direct sun, evening or night time is ideal to ensure new growth is not burnt. Ensure an even coverage of water on all hydroseeded areas. The hydroseed mulch should be moist, if it looks dry or crusty it has not had enough water.
- ✦ **Weeks 3-6** – watering can be reduced back to 3-4 times a week, however, keep a close eye on the lawn and in very dry conditions increase watering – if necessary, back to daily.
- ✦ **Week 6 onwards** – watering requirements will largely depend on the conditions and time of year. During summer and autumn watering 1-2 times a week (more during very dry conditions) is required to ensure the lawn stays healthy and does not die off.

## Feeding

**The hydroseeding mix already contains a dose of fertiliser to help the lawn get established. Do not add any further fertiliser whilst the lawn is becoming established.**

- ✦ Once the lawn is established, a subsequent feeding during weeks 6-8 is recommended.
- ✦ A variety of fertilisers are available from most garden centres and DIY stores. Always ensure the instructions, mixing ratios and application rates are followed (these will vary depending upon brand).
- ✦ From here, on-going normal feeding can be undertaken periodically throughout the year.

## Weed control

The hydroseeding mix contains a dose of pre and post emergent weed control formula to help suppress weed growth while the lawn gets established. Do not add any further weed suppressants whilst the lawn is becoming established.

- ✦ Although weed control measures are in place, you will notice some weeds, this is unavoidable – weed seeds are carried on the air, in bird droppings etc and may even be contained in poorly screened topsoil, so it is likely some weeds will appear as the lawn grows.
- ✦ Once the lawn is established (approx. week 6-8) a suitable weed control product can be applied – this can be done in conjunction with the feeding process (above) using a product such as Yates Weed & Feed or similar.
- ✦ From here, on-going normal weed control can be undertaken periodically throughout the year.

## Mowing

It is important to let the lawn become well established before any mowing occurs. Allow the lawn to reach a height of around 100mm before mowing. This is significantly longer than an established and maintained lawn, however it is critical in this early stage to ensure the root system has time to properly develop. Premature mowing will damage and potentially kill the new lawn altogether. Growth rates will vary depending on seasonal conditions – the key is to allow the lawn to reach a good height and appear full, healthy and lush before any mowing occurs.

- ✦ **First mow** – Cut the grass to around 50mm, removing around half the height of the lawn. Ensure grass clippings are caught in a catcher and not mulched back into the new lawn.
- ✦ **Second mow** – Allow the grass to come away again to around 75-100mm, then cut back to around 50mm. Again, ensure grass clippings are caught in a catcher and not mulched back into the new lawn. From this point onwards gradually reduce the height with each subsequent mow until the desired final height is achieved.