

turf maintenance

First, recognize that getting quality lawn from a seed is a lengthy process. New lawns can be discouraging in the early phases, but do not give up. Timely watering and high fertility are required.

- Keeping the ground moist with light and frequent watering is vital to the survival of seeds and seedlings.
- Young emerging seedlings can dry out and die easily so the top layer of soil must stay consistently moist.
- This may require 2 to 4 waterings each day depending on daily weather and drying winds.

Second, do not expect uniformity in a newly seeded lawn. Some areas are likely to look better than others. A part of the lawn may dry out quickly, while others remain damp. Adjust your watering to fit the situation. New lawns will not have grass blade touching grass blade. Density of grass is established over time. As grass matures it sends out roots and tillers that interlock and knit the individuals together. This interlocking is what forms sod. A seeded lawn does not hit full stride until it has gone into a second fall season.

Third, weeds are an issue in any new lawn. All soils contain weed seeds, disturbing them allows for weed seeds in soil to receive sunlight and germinate. Weed seeds will compete against the grass for sunlight and nutrients. The first control for weeds is mowing and the second is chemical. The first mowing should be done when grass “waves” in the breeze. Use sharp mower blades and do not mow if soil is damp. Continue to mow until conditions are proper for a chemical application to control weeds, at least 4 mowings.