



# Always Green

Incorporated

192 Poor Farm Road Coventry, RI 02816 • Tel: 401-623-0868 • Email: info@AlwaysGreenRI.com

## Detailed Care Guide for Your HydroSeeded Lawn

**Hydroseed is biodegradable and does not stain. Overspray will easily wash off any surface.**

**Hydro-Seed is a live product! It will be necessary to keep the seed moist. Seed is perishable and may die if not watered properly.**

Your Hydro-Seeding application contains grass seed that requires a continuous supply of moisture. This moisture must come from rainfall or watering. It is not likely that it will rain every day for the next week or two, so be sure to water frequently enough to keep the seedbed moist.

**DAY 1:** Do not walk on the hydro-seeded areas until the mulch has dried completely for the first time. You will be able to see that it is dry with a lighter green color. Once dry you may walk on the hydroseed as necessary to begin watering. *More info on watering is found below.* **Divert all gutter downspouts away from seeded areas to prevent washouts.** Keep all traffic to a minimum in the hydro-seeded areas for the first month including pets. Contact your lawn care company to let them know your new lawn will require a high nitrogen fertilizer in 3-4 weeks. *More info on fertilizing is found on the backside.*

**WEEK 1:** Evaluate your watering methods to be sure that all hydro-seeded areas have adequate moisture. Areas with full sun exposure will dry out first. The green appearance may be fading to a normal tan color. Remember to keep people and pets off the hydro-seeded areas during the germination period. Now is a good time to make sure your mower is tuned up and has a sharp blade.

**WEEK 2:** Continue to keep the seed moist without overwatering. You should now start to see some growth. It is important to remember that even though you see growth there are still many more seeds that will continue to germinate in the coming weeks. If you don't see any growth by now it could be due to weather conditions. The soil temperature needs to be at least 55° for the seed to germinate. Once you begin to see growth it is essential to keep the new plants moist along with the rest of the seed that has not sprouted yet.

**WEEK 3:** If growing conditions are favorable you should start to see some uniformity in the grass. If you have bare spots more than likely these areas are not getting sufficient water. If you notice your grass plants thriving in the shadier areas and not in the direct sun you are losing moisture due to evaporation. It is very important to compensate for this and increase your watering frequency for these areas. If you see grass that has turned brown and is laying down in circular patterns there may be a disease occurring, contact your lawn care professional immediately for further assistance.

**WEEK 4:** By the end of the fourth week the majority of the seed should have germinated. The germination period is now complete. If no more seed is visible you may now follow a "Deep and Infrequent" watering schedule to achieve at least 1-2" of water a week. The first mowing is likely by the end of this week if the grass is about 3" tall in any given area. *More info on mowing is found on the backside.*

**WATERING SCHEDULE:** During the germination period, water twice a day when temperatures are below 70° and three times a day when temperatures are above 70°. Avoid runoff and puddles, this is over-watering.

The second phase of the watering program begins when the grass is about 3" tall. Reduce the frequency of watering to once in the morning every 2 days but longer deeper watering. In hotter weather water the grass every other day in the morning only. Also, reduce or discontinue watering during wet and/or cool periods.

**TIPS ON WATERING HYDROSEED:** It is not beneficial to water any earlier than 8:00 AM. On most nights the ground forms dew that the seed will benefit from in the early mornings. It is more important to keep the seeds moist when there is sun exposure. On rainy or overcast days you may find that it is not necessary to water at all. As long as the seed is moist it is fine. **If your seeds dry out for an extended period you can certainly expect a delay in germination adding days and even weeks to the progression. Lack of water can easily be identified and will void any guarantee.** Your seed will germinate more rapidly when it is kept damp in the warm sun causing a greenhouse effect. Finish watering 3 hours before dusk during hot humid weather. This will help avoid lawn diseases including "Pythium Blight" and damping off.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEMS:** If you have an irrigation system we recommend 3-4 cycles a day. Set the station times to thoroughly moisten the seedbed without pooling (usually between 5-10 minutes.) Space out watering every 2-3 hours starting after 8 am and finishing before 5 pm. You may have to adjust a few times to get a good balance of moisture throughout the day. Re-adjust the schedule once all seed has sprouted. We use a drought-tolerant turf mix that does not need a lot of water once established. A deep watering every 3 - 4 days should be sufficient.

**FERTILIZING:** In 3-4 weeks your lawn will need to be fertilized using a high nitrogen or "Turf Builder" fertilizer. **This must be applied by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> week to maintain a dark green appearance and promote a thick lush lawn.** We used a high phosphorus "starter fertilizer" when we hydro-seeded. Phosphorus stimulates healthy root development in the early stages. It is not necessary or beneficial to use a starter fertilizer again. If your lawn looks thin, not ready to mow, and turning yellow this is a good indicator that your lawn needs nitrogen. We recommend using a premium-grade slow-release fertilizer with nitrogen being the highest number on the bag. The nitrogen range should be anywhere from 18 to 32 for optimal results. A new lawn will maintain a dark green appearance if it is fertilized every 4-6 weeks. If your lawn is watered enough and is turning yellow this is a sign that it is hungry. Once established fertilization every 6-8 weeks April - October will be sufficient.

**MOWING:** A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the blades are about 3" tall in any area. Delaying the first cutting encourages weed growth, and allows long grass blades to bend over, causing a shabby appearance. Mowing plays a vital role in controlling weeds. Subsequent mowing should be done every week, and the blades of the mower always are kept sharp. A sharp mower blade will prevent bruised and torn grass blades. Bruised or damaged grass invites lawn disease and results in unsightly brown spots. Mowing will also promote new grass plants to thicken up your lawn faster. You may return clippings to the lawn as long as there is no clumping, the blades of grass should be dry to help disperse evenly. Never mow lower than 2 ½ inches. If the grass gets too tall before it is mowed, raise the mower. Mowing young tall grass too low can kill the grass. A good rule of thumb is to never mow off more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the grass blade during any one cutting.

**WEED CONTROL: DO NOT USE WEED KILLER ON YOUR NEW LAWN BEFORE THE THIRD MOWING.** Once your new lawn has been mowed **3 times** we recommend using crabgrass preventer with fertilizer before July 15<sup>th</sup>. Crabgrass is more of a threat to crowding out a new lawn than any other weed. Broadleaf and grassy weeds that emerge may also be treated at this time with post-emergent control. **Always read labels carefully before applying any product.** If you're not confident, hire a licensed lawn care professional.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** With ideal weather conditions and soil temperatures, you can expect your lawn to be fully germinated in 4-6 weeks. Thin areas will continue to fill in as long as the lawn is fertilized and mowed regularly. The mature seedlings will knit together and thicken up each time you mow your lawn. You will need to mow 3-5 times before your lawn will look lush and full. Your new lawn will not be fully established with deep roots until the following season. A new lawn always looks better the following year as long as the proper care is given. Certain starter fertilizers contain a weed suppressant that is safe for new lawns, look for the active ingredient Mesotrione. This is an option for effective weed control until the 3<sup>rd</sup> mowing.

**CONTINUED CARE:** We have supplied enough information in this guide to get your lawn through the first month. **We highly recommend hiring a licensed lawn care professional who can provide a seasonal lawn care program.** This will ensure your lawn will be given the correct amount of fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and lime as needed at the right time. **If you have any problems or concerns with your lawn after the germination period we suggest you consult with a lawn care specialist.**