

### **GRASS SEED & CARE:**

The most critical step in growing a strong, thick, healthy new lawn is proper watering. You need to keep the ground moist until the seedlings are up and established – until they are 2 1/3 to 3 inches tall. For best results, let the sprinkler run just until puddles begin to form; and do that several times a day (2 or 3 times, maybe more, depending on the weather and the climate). Remember; frequent light watering – not once-a-day drenching!

When the seedlings are 2 1/2 to 3 inches tall, it's time to mow! Some tips for mowing:

- 1.) Keep the mower blades sharp. The most common cause of brown lawn is mowing with a dull blade.
- 2.) Cut only 1/3 inch of the length of the grass at one mowing. If you cut more than that, you overstress the plants, leaving them more susceptible to pests, drought & disease.
- 3.) Leave only 1/4 inch long clippings. Such small pieces will decompose and return valuable nitrogen to the soil. Leave longer clippings, though, and they tend to lodge above the soil, creating a layer of thatch that can impede water penetration, and increase disease and chance of drought.

### ***Maintenance for your Lawn:***

- 1.) Keep grass mowed to the recommended height (about 2 1/2 to 3 inches for most varieties)
- 2.) Fertilize 2 to 3 times per year, using a slow release type fertilizer
- 3.) Control weeds. Your best defense is a thick, healthy turf, which will actually crowd out the weeds. If weeds do emerge, treat by either pulling the roots out by hand, or by using a chemical herbicide  
**(Caution: Be sure to follow label directions, to avoid damaging grass, ornamental plants and shrubs, or injuring pets and small children).**

### **FLOWERS, GROUND COVER & SEEDS:**

Keep bed moist at all times for a period of two weeks after installation. Fertilize at regular intervals throughout the growing season with a product such as Peter's Miracid or Miraglegro, following the package directions. Mulching is beneficial to keep roots moist and prevent weeds. Pick spent buds often.

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## Proper Care of New Sod and Nursery Stock

### **SOD:**

New sod should be soaked thoroughly daily for the first two (2) weeks. One (1) inch of water should be applied per watering, which amount to approximately one-hour of sprinkling or until the soil beneath the sod is thoroughly soaked. Pay special attention to all edges, seams and small patches of sod.

Watering is best done early in the day so the grass may dry off by nightfall. After the first two (2) weeks, you may cut back the watering schedule to every third day for the next month and then once per week – twice as long as your normal watering time. Use your judgement in cases of a rainstorm or if the sod still appears too dry or too wet after following this schedule. If a thick-bladed grass, light green grass appears in the new sod, don't be alarmed. This is water grass and it means that you may be watering a bit too much. This grass disappears upon mowing and hot weather, as well as once your watering schedule is reduced.

Water immediately if the sod appears wilted or if it has shrunk and gaps are evident between the pieces of sod. Sod will not react immediately to watering of stress – so it is best to follow the schedule, use common sense, and be patient.

The sod can be mowed two (2) weeks after installation, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade per cut.

Fertilize the lawn one (1) month after installation. Begin using Weed-N-Feed fertilizers after the first installation. It is recommended that the lawn be fertilized every 6-8 weeks during the growing season. The growing season begins in mid-April, starting with a fertilizer with crabgrass preventer, and ending in late-September with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Make sure that once your sod is installed you follow these guidelines closely. If these guidelines are not followed, you will not have the beautiful lawn that you are looking for.

### **DECIDUOUS SHRUBS:**

Water new shrubs every second day for the first weeks. Be sure to water the base of the shrub and the root zone thoroughly and then spray down the entire plant to prevent wilting. Shrubs under 3 ft. high need approximately 5 gallons of water, shrubs over 3 ft. high will need approximately 10 gallons of water. If the plant appears dry, wilted with brittle leaves, then hose down the entire plant daily and feed with starter fertilizer once per month. If plant leaves turn yellow-brown and the base of the plant begins to turn black and rotten, then you are watering too much. After the first two week of care, plants can be watered once per week or as needed.

**Any Questions???**

### **EVERGREENS:**

Water newly planted evergreens every third day for the first two (2) weeks. Evergreens under 3 ft high need approximately 5 gallons of water, evergreens over 3 feet high will need approximately 10 gallons of water. Established evergreens are usually very tolerant of dry conditions and there is more danger of over watering than under watering. After the first two (2) weeks, the young roots should be taking hold – so cut back the watering to only long, hot dry spells and then just once per week.

### **TREES:**

Water newly planted trees, using the guidelines stated above for size – every third day for the first two weeks. After this, water once per week, thoroughly. Then, after one month, cut back to twice per month – unless the tree appears wilted. It is typical for a newly planted tree to wilt quickly in hot, windy weather. When this occurs, hose down the entire tree twice per day, until it recovers. Also feed with a starter fertilizer during this time.