



Ph: 604 420-6652

www.ecoscape.bc.ca

E-mail: info@ecoscape.bc.ca

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR HYDROSEEDED LAWN

A lush green lawn enhances the appearance and the value of any home. It helps to keep us cool on hot summer days and is a major producer of oxygen, constantly replenishing our supply of fresh air. Plenty of healthy grass also reduces neighbourhood noise levels, retains moisture and reduces airborne dust.

A properly maintained lawn will give you years of healthy green grass. Once your lawn has been hydroseeded, follow these simple guidelines to ensure you get the most from your investment.

THE FIRST 3 WEEKS ARE IMPORTANT

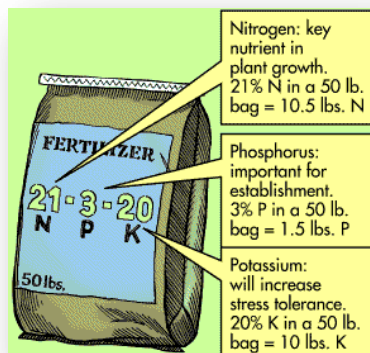


Once your newly hydroseeded lawn has set for 24 hours, it's time for watering. Water with a lawn sprinkler if you do not have an in-ground irrigation system. Both rotary type and oscillating type sprinklers work well. Keep the top two inches of soil moist, not muddy. Do not over water! It is best to water each area of your lawn twice a day, morning and late afternoon, for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. (Note: In extreme hot weather you will have to water more often.) Continue this schedule until the first cutting, then gradually reduce the frequency and increase the duration of the watering. An established lawn requires

approximately one inch of water per week, supplied by either rainfall or irrigation.

Water well or not at all! During dry periods, water deeply once per week rather than watering lightly each day. A light watering will encourage the roots to grow shallow and will weaken the lawn. To monitor how much water has been applied, place a container on the lawn and water until there is 1" of water in it. If you are unable to water, do not mow during dry periods. The grass will retreat into dormancy and grow again when the weather has improved and moisture is available.

FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN



A high quality starter fertilizer was applied to your lawn at the time it was hydroseeded. This fertilizer is designed to feed your lawn during the important establishment period. A four to six step fertilization program should be started. No weed killer of any kind should be used during the first 60 days of a hydroseeded lawn.

Fertilize 3-4 times per year for a healthy lawn. Every fertilizer bag has a 3 number combination that refers to the ration of nitrogen (N) – encourages leaf growth, phosphorus (P) – encourages root

growth and potassium (K) – encourages general vigour, known as N-P-K. I like to use this rhyme to help me with the fertilizer numbers: “Up, down and around”.

Always use a spreader for an accurate, even application, and do not attempt to spread fertilizer by hand. There are two main types of spreaders, drop and rotary. Drop spreaders release granules down into the grass, while rotary spreaders broadcast (or throw) granules over several feet. After purchasing a spreader, be sure to keep your instructions, as each model has a certain setting for particular products. When operating a spreader, walk briskly and close the fertilizer opening when turning to begin another row.

Several applications of a complete slow release lawn fertilizer will keep your grass green and healthy. Begin by fertilizing in mid-April and again in early June or July with a lawn food high in nitrogen (first number) to encourage leaf growth. In late September/October, apply a fertilizer high in potassium (last number) which encourages general health. The fall application is very important to help the grass survive the winter.

Organic and synthetic slow release fertilizer with both nitrogen and potassium provide the nutrition your lawn needs. Natural/organic fertilizers use the micro organisms in the soil to make the nutrients available to the grass. The soil temperature needs to be at least 55oF/12oC. Synthetic slow release fertilizers are designed to meter out the nutrients over a long period of time and work at all temperatures. The best time to fertilize your lawn is when it is actively growing and in need of nutrients. Follow the rates on the package to ensure you are providing the proper amount of nutrition to your lawn.

MOWING YOUR LAWN



A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass blades reach a height of three inches. Delaying the first mowing will inhibit the germination of slower germinating grasses, such as bluegrass, and will be detrimental to your lawn in the long run. Mow your lawn often. You should never remove more than one third of the leaf at any one time. Lawn mower blades must be kept sharp to cut evenly and prevent damage to your lawn. Your lawn is at its best if the grass is kept at 3 to 3.5 inches in height. When kept at this height, your lawn will establish a deeper root system, which will make for a healthier turf that is better able to withstand drought, disease and insect

pressures. Mow in different patterns to avoid rutting or tire marks. Going over the same set of tire marks compacts the soil and inhibits good turf growth.

In times of stress, such as during hot, dry weather your grass should be mowed a little longer than usual to conserve moisture. It is healthier to mow more frequently than to allow the lawn to grow very tall and then remove a large portion of the grass all at once!

WEED CONTROL



Weeds will appear in your lawn. They come from seeds, which have lain dormant in your soil or have been carried in by birds or the wind. Growing good healthy grass can best control these weeds. Another reason to apply a four-step lawn program. Grass that is properly watered, mowed and fertilized provides too much competition for weed plants to gain a good stronghold.

Thick healthy lawns do not allow weeds to grow. In order to create a healthy lawn, being with 6 inches of topsoil, fertilize to keep grass growing vigorously, maintain an optimal pH. The presence of certain weeds tells you specifically

what is wrong with your lawn. For example, plantain is a common weed that thrives in a compact, low fertile area. Consequently, aerating your lawn and top dressing with compost and fertilizer will help eliminate it.

Chickweed is an indication of a thin lawn, therefore you need to overseed and fertilize properly. Since moss enjoys acidic soil, its presence reveals that lime needs to be applied to bring the pH closer to neutral. Young small weeds can be easily removed with a hand weeder, taking care to remove the entire root. For best results, hand weed when the ground is moist and the weeds are small and young. If you use a weed control product be sure to apply carefully and only on the areas where there are weeds.

INSECTS/DISEASE



A healthy lawn resists insects and disease. Most insects and diseases attack certain varieties of grass, so using a mix of at least 3 types will strengthen your lawn. You may still get damage, but parts of the lawn will remain healthy. Many insects, such as chinch bugs, will shelter in the thatch layer of the lawn. To remove this layer, give the grass a hard raking in the spring and fall so that the insects have no protection.

Chinch bugs suck the sap from grass, causing it to yellow and die. You will see small black or red 1/6" bugs on the grass blades, near the soil surface. Chinch bugs prefer the dry heat of summer and usually become a problem in July. Grubs feed on the roots of grass, separating the turf from the soil below. They are the white larva of beetles, often seen curled up in the soil and are a problem in early summer. Leather jackets (Crane fly larva) eat grass roots as well. They are 1' long, brown grubs, with a rough leathery texture.

There are many methods to control insects but a healthy lawn is the first. Watering in the morning, fertilizing regularly and mowing often will help prevent diseases.

