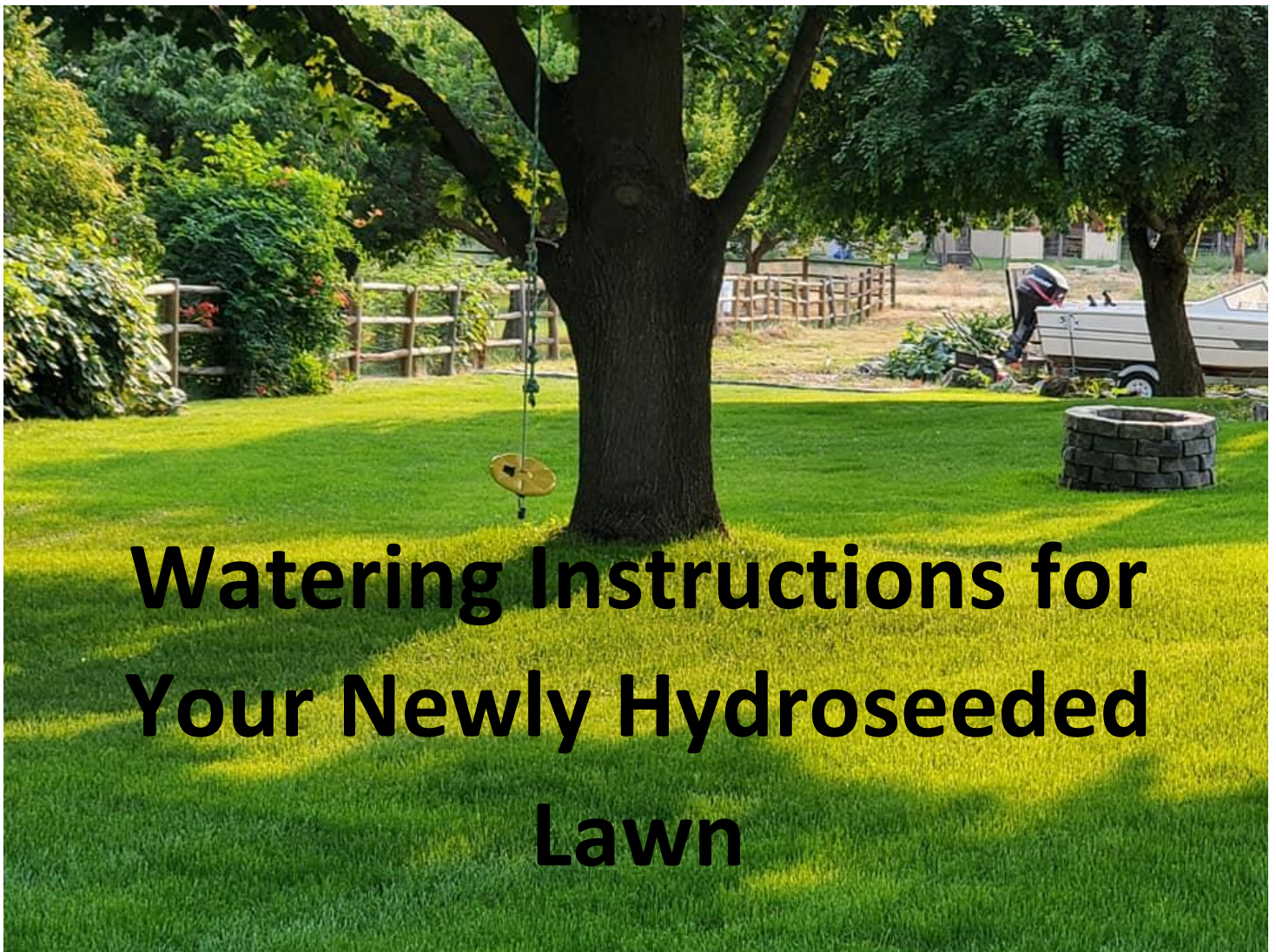




GreenAcres
HYDROSEEDING



**Watering Instructions for
Your Newly Hydroseeded
Lawn**

HYDROSEEDING OVERSPRAY

We work hard to be as precise as possible, however there are times when overspray is inevitable due the high pressure of the equipment (70+psi). The good news is that hydroseed is biodegradable and does not stain, and any errant product will easily wash off any surface with a little pressure. Please be careful to ensure that seed isn't inadvertently washed away from areas needing grass.

- **Hydroseed is a live product! It is essential to keep the seed moist at all times. Seed is perishable and will die if starved for water.**
- Remember to keep people and pets off the hydroseeded areas until the grass is three inches tall (the only exceptions should be for hand watering and sprinkler adjustments).
- Areas in direct sunlight will require more water than areas in the shade, please monitor moisture levels and adjust your sprinklers accordingly.

TIMELINE

DAY 1: Refrain from watering your newly seeded lawn until the product is chalky & dry (this can take between 2 – 7 hours based on weather conditions) and then begin watering as detailed in the 'Watering' section of this guide.

WEEK 1: The green appearance of the Hydroseed will be fading to a dirt/tan color. Continuously monitor and evaluate your watering methods to ensure that all hydroseeded areas have adequate moisture.

WEEK 2: You should now start to see significant growth as seeds continuously germinate. Continue to keep the seed moist without overwatering.

WEEK 3: With favorable growing conditions you will start to see some uniformity in the grass. Bare spots mean that these areas are likely getting too much or too little water, so please measure and adjust your sprinklers accordingly.

WEEK 4: By the fourth week the majority of the seed should have germinated. It is essential to switch watering to "Deep Watering" as outlined below in **Stage 3** of the watering guidelines. Once the grass is three+ inches tall it is ready for its first mowing.

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Please let the hydroseed dry and set (usually three to four hours) before you begin watering (until the mixture turns chalky dry).

YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Due to extreme variations in weather/temperatures, soil conditions, shady verse sunny lawns, sprinkler types, etc., **it is impossible to provide an exact set of instructions so please use the following as a guide:**

Not all sprinkler systems are created equally. Your sprinklers are essential in helping keep your lawn moist and able to survive in the arid Idaho climate, a shoddy or poorly calibrated system will make it very difficult to succeed in keeping your lawn properly - and evenly - watered.

Due to these variations, **we strongly recommend that you test your sprinklers on your bare/prepared dirt before we hydroseed.** This will reveal any problem areas where water pools (grass will not grow here), along with areas that may be too dry or that dry out far quicker than other locations. A properly calibrated system will water all areas evenly and unless you want dead spots in your lawn, any problem areas found during testing should be addressed before we arrive.

WATERING SCHEDULE

Your lawn watering schedule is broken down into the following three phases:

- **Stage 1: Germination (0-2 inches)**
 - Summer Average: 0-2 Weeks
- **Stage 2: Between 2-3 inches of New Growth**
 - Summer Average: 2-3 Weeks
- **Stage 3: 4+ inches of New Growth**
 - Summer Average: Week 3+

These stages will be detailed in the following guide. **Please remember that you must change your watering timing and length as you move from Stage 1 to Stage 2, and then again at Stage 3 — failing to do this will have detrimental effect on your new lawn.**

STAGE 1: GERMINATION (0-2 INCHES)

Water at a bare minimum of four times a day during **hot sunny days** (adjust lower for **cool** or rainy days). Watering for shorter periods more often is better than longer periods less often. **During peak summer months on the hottest days, you can water as often as your sprinklers will allow.**

PRO-TIPS

- Use the spring watering variations for seeding done from March through Most of May (weather dependent).
- Keep the mulch (seed mix) moist (not saturated) at all times.
- Do NOT let it dry out
- Do not water to the point of pooling. **Moist, not saturated** is the key
- Watering should be during **daylight hours only**
- Do not water your newly seeded lawn during the night
- Watering in early evening – to ensure a moist lawn overnight – is advisable
- Recommended watering schedule (**for sunny hot days**): ADJUST AS NEEDED TO KEEP GROUND MOIST DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS
 - 7AM, 11AM, 2PM, 5PM, 8PM
- **Watch your lawn daily. As temperatures change and the soil becomes more or less saturated, you will likely need to adjust your watering several times to compensate.**

Sprinkler Timing Guide by System Type (typical durations):

- For rotating sprinklers run 4-5 times per day for 7-10 minutes
- For Pop-up sprinklers run 4-5 times per day for 3-5 minutes

STAGE 2: (BETWEEN 2-3" OF NEW GROWTH)

Your roots are developing at this stage but they are still very delicate.

- **VERY gradually cut back on the frequency of watering while increasing the duration of each watering**
- Water two to three times per day
- Allow the lawn surface to dry out just a little bit in between waterings
- **DO NOT** let your lawn dry out completely, this could quickly kill your lawn on a hot day
- Avoid walking on the lawn during this stage as the plants are very tender

In Hotter Than Normal Weather

Watch your lawn closely and adjust your sprinklers accordingly to ensure it does not dry out completely. Error on the side of over watering verse under watering.

STAGE 3: 4+ INCHES OF NEW GROWTH

Now is the time to change your watering habits. It may seem counter-intuitive to adjust the watering schedule when your lawn looks great, but not adjusting it will acclimate the roots to a high water table and cause wilting and disease during the extreme summer heat. Grassroots are healthier when they grow deep.

- **Gradually** increase the duration of each watering & decrease the frequency
- At this point, you shouldn't need to water more than once a day (maybe twice on really hot days).
- **The goal is to get to where you only need to water 2-3 times a week. This is a gradual transition.**

A great test to see if your lawn is stressed due to lack of water is simply stepping on the grass. If it stays matted and doesn't bounce back, you need to water.



SPRING & FALL WATERING VARIATIONS

Getting the balance between sufficient moisture and ground temperature right can be a tricky one. Too much water: the ground temperature drops and the seeds will not germinate. Too little water and the seeds dry out and will not germinate.

Early spring and late fall are great time to seed, but the process does take longer with the cooler temperatures. It also takes much less water to establish a lawn in cool weather. **If the temperatures are above 50 degrees keep the ground moist while your lawn is being established.**

You do not need to water when temperatures are less than 50 degrees. You will likely see sunny areas green up much quicker than shady areas, this is normal.

STAGE 1: GERMINATION (0-2 INCHES)

Water at a bare minimum of three times a day during warm/hot sunny days (adjust for cool, or rainy days). Watering for shorter periods more often is better than longer periods less often.

- Recommended watering schedule (for sunny warm days): Adjust as needed to keep ground moist during daylight hours
 - Sample watering times; 9AM, 1PM, 4PM

For [Stages 2 & 3](#) refer to the primary detailed watering instructions on the pages above.

NOTES FOR FALL SEEDING

As the temperature drops, you will find you need less water to keep the seed moist. You only need to keep moisture on the new seedbed when temperatures are above 50 degrees. Once the daytime highs do not reach 50 degrees you are done watering for the winter. Once temperatures rise above 50 degrees in the spring resume the watering schedule.

FOLLOW-UP CARE

FERTILIZING: In 10-12 weeks your lawn will need to be fertilized using a high nitrogen fertilizer. This must be applied by the end of the 10th week to maintain a dark green appearance and promote a thick lush lawn. We used a high phosphorus "starter fertilizer" when we hydroseeded. 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. If your lawn is watered enough and the dark green color fades this is a sign that it is hungry. Once established fertilization every six to eight weeks April - October will be sufficient.

MOWING: A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the blades are 3+ inches tall in most areas. 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 should always be 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. After the 2nd mowing 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.** Generally you will not want to 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 1/3rd of the grass blade during any one cutting.

Expert Tip: Avoid mowing when the ground is soggy or saturated, as this can damage your new lawn.

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 15th. 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, they have access to products and tools that are not available on the retail market. Note: Delay applying weed killer products if follow-up seeding is needed.

ADDITIONAL INFO: With ideal weather conditions and soil temperatures, you can expect your lawn to be fully germinated in 3-5 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. Your new lawn will not be fully established with deep roots until the following season.

CONTINUED CARE: We have supplied enough information in this guide to help you get your lawn established. In most situations we 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, etc.

If anything looks amiss, please text us a picture and we will be happy to provide guidance, or come out if needed.

Thank you for choosing GreenAcres We very much appreciate your business!



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