



GreenAcres
HYDROSEEDING

SPRING/FALL WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Your Spring & Fall Guide to a Wonderful Lawn

Please let the hydroseed dry and set 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. Because 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 sound-quality and 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.

The initial goal is to keep your lawn consistently moist – but not water-soaked – during the germination stage. If you let it dry out, you risk damaging the germinating seed itself – and once germinated – the baby grass that still has very little root growth. If you over-water, you can stunt

the growth and even kill the new seedlings. Keeping the lawn moist – but not over-wet – is the key, and you should **be available and prepared to adjust your watering as often as the temperature changes.**

Watering Schedule

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

- **Stage 1: Germination (0-2”)**
 - Spring/ Fall average: 2-4 Weeks
- **Stage 2: Between 2-3” of New Growth**
 - Spring/ Fall average: Week 3-5
- **Stage 3: 3+” of New Growth**
 - Spring/ Fall average: Week 4+

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 stages 2, and then again at stage 3—failing to do this will have detrimental effect on your new lawn.**

Stage 1: Germination (0-2”)

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.

Key Points:

- Keep the mulch (seed mix) moist at all times.
- Do NOT let it dry out
- Do not water to the point of 'pooling.' **Moist, not saturated** is the key
- Do not water your newly seeded lawn during the night
- Watering should be during **daylight hours only**
- Watering in the evening – to ensure a moist lawn overnight – is advisable
- Recommended watering schedule (for sunny warm days):
 - 8AM, 11:30AM, 3PM, 6PM

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 3-4 times per day for 7-10 minutes**
- **For Pop-up sprinklers run 3-4 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.

- **Gradually cut back on the frequency of watering and increase the duration of each watering**
- Water 1-2 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 kill your lawn on a hot day
- **Avoid** walking on the lawn during this stage as the plants are very tender

In Warmer than Normal Weather:

Watch your lawn closely and adjust your sprinklers accordingly to ensure it does not dry out completely.

Stage 3: 3+" 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 other problems 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
- **The goal is to get to where you only need to water 2-3 times a week**

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.