



JsCustomLandscaping.com

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New Lawn and Landscape Care

Lawn

It is very important to adequately water your new lawn daily for the first 3 weeks or so to prevent the seed or sod from dehydrating. The new lawn is trying to establish its root system in the ground so it can draw water from the soil. Until this occurs the grass will be relying on you for its water. So water, water, water!!! It may be necessary to water up to four times a day on hot and windy days. During the germination period and early growth stages, it is critical that the grass areas be kept very moist. The easiest and best way to do this is with shorter, but more frequent watering. Don't forget that shady grass seed takes up to 28 days for the last grass seed to start growing. These watering guidelines are for full sun grass areas. Shady grass areas will take longer to fill in and it will be longer until your first mowing.

Days 1-7 Water at 9 am, noon, 3 pm and 6 pm for about 3-5 minutes with continuous spray sprinklers, and about 7-12 minutes for rotor style sprinklers. Based on the weather, you might need to cut back to 2-3 watering times per day if it is cloudy, cool or rainy.

Days 8-18 Water at 9 am, noon and 3 pm for 5-8 minutes with continuous spray sprinklers, and 10-15 minutes for rotor style sprinklers. Remember to adjust your overall watering based on the weather. By day 17 or 18, depending on the weather, you will need to **SHUT OFF** your sprinklers in preparation for your first mowing.

Days 18-21 Let your lawn dry out. By this time the grass blades will be quite long and the soil very saturated. It will take several days with no water for the soil to dry enough to walk on and for mowing. Don't hesitate to wait an extra day or two if you are still not able to walk on the grass without sinking.

1st Mowing For your first mowing you want to set the height of your mower to the highest setting on the cutting deck. The reason is that you only want to cut a maximum of 1/3 of the height of the grass. Remember to be careful, because the key to not ruining your "virgin" lawn is to pay attention while mowing to not skid around corners, or accidentally kick loose a chunk of grass with your foot. Also, the grass could still be wet so make sure to empty the catcher frequently to avoid any clumps on your new lawn.

Water Cycle Now it is time to set your sprinklers to a regular water cycle. You will need to pay close attention in the next couple of weeks that your lawn is getting enough water. After the first 3 weeks your lawn will need approximately 1" - 1 1/2" of water per week. There will be a range of times for the various sunny or shady parts of your yard. Continuous spray sprinklers will run from about 8-15 minutes. Rotor style sprinkler will run from 20-45 minutes. It's recommended that a rain gauge of some sort be used to measure the amount of water being applied to the new lawn. Place the gauge in the middle of the watering area and keep track of the amount of time needed to acquire one inch of water from your watering system.

For the best results long term, early morning watering is best so that the grass blades dry off quickly which helps prevent disease problems. Generally you will need to start watering a few days a week by May, but it may be earlier if the weather gets warm and dry. Most people will need to water at least 4-5 days a week in the summer to get enough water on the lawn. It is typically best to water fewer days for longer so that the roots of the grass will go deeper for the water, but remember not to run the sprinklers so long that water is just running off your lawn.

Mowing

Mowing can usually be done about 3 weeks after installation. For best results when mowing NEVER REMOVE MORE THAN 1/3 OF THE EXISTING GRASS BLADE AT ANY ONE TIME. The recommended mowing height is 2 1/2 to 3 inches. Leave the lawn height higher in the summer to help relieve stress and encourage the root growth.



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Fertilizing

Most lawns require fertilizer every 6 to 8 weeks during the growing season (April-October). Always follow the directions on the fertilizer's container. Never apply fertilizer by hand. Use a rotary "whirly bird" spreader to evenly spread the fertilizer. Fertilizer "burning" can result when excess fertilizer is applied on one area. Water your lawn the same day as fertilization with enough water to wash in the application to help prevent burning of turf. Please refer to the label on the fertilizer container for other specific instructions.

Lime

Soils in our area tend to be very acidic. Rhododendrons like it but the grass doesn't. Grass plants prefer a more alkaline or "sweet" soil. Applying lime in the early spring helps neutralize acidity and allows nutrients to be absorbed more readily by the roots. Lime should be applied every year if possible for your lawn.

Aeration

Aeration and de-thatching are two distinct cultural management practices that are used to promote a healthier, more vigorous turf. "Turf" is actually the grass and soil that comprise the "lawn". It is important to manage the soil that indirectly affects the growth and well-being of the grass. Aeration is the process of removing the cores of soil to allow for better water penetration, grass root growth and to improve the health of the lawn. When your lawn is aerated there are cores of soil removed from the ground. The holes in the ground provide more air and water around your lawn's roots and encourage beneficial microorganisms in the soil. These microorganisms eat lawn thatch, a layer of dead grass roots on the top of the dirt that can choke out the good grass. Aeration also makes it easier for your lawn to grow a stronger, deeper root system. A stronger root system will help keep the grass healthier, thicker and more disease resistant.

De-Thatching

De-thatching involves the mechanical removal of thatch. It consists of tightly intermingled layer of dead and decaying grass tissue derived from leaves, stems, stolens and roots. Leaf clippings contribute very little to thatch accumulation. Dead and decaying roots, rhizomes, stolens, and shoots are major contributors to thatch since these structures resist decomposition. Located between the green vegetation and the soil surface, thatch accumulates when turf grass organic matter production exceeds decomposition. The best way to prevent thatch build up is to Aerate about once per year.

Over seeding

Over seeding is frequently overlooked until there is a problem in with the grass. Most people assume that with proper fertilization you will not need to over seed. That is not true! After 4 to 5 years the grass plants slow down their reproduction, thus allowing weeds more room to grow. This problem is even more prevalent in shady areas that thin out during the winter months. For sunny lawn areas you should over seed a minimum of every 3-4 years. For shady areas over seeding may be required every 1-2 years.

At J's Custom Landscaping we make sure to use the right blend of grass seed for the amount of sunlight the grass will receive year round. We use a balance commercial grade starter fertilizer that has some quick and some slow release nitrogen combined with the right microelements to help the seed germinate better. Mulch is spread on top of the seed to help keep the grass seed moist during the germination time period.



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Plant Watering

All plant materials installed by J's Custom Landscaping have a one-year, one-time replacement guarantee. This guarantee is valid only if site owner provides proper maintenance and watering. Proper watering and observation of general plant health are responsibilities of the owner. Proper watering is the most important element to maintain healthy plants. In soils with high clay content make sure not to drown the plants by overwatering. Please carefully follow the instructions below to ensure the survival of your investment.

- **Trees:** Soak the root ball of shade and ornamental trees for 3-4 minutes with a garden hose every other day during normal conditions. Water more often if leaves start to show signs of wilting. If you have clay soil, make sure not to over-water and drown your plant.
- **Shrubs:** Soak root ball for 30 seconds to a minute, depending on size of plant, every day during hot, dry conditions. Cut back to every other day or as needed during cool or wet periods.
- **Perennials:** Water for 15-30 seconds as often as is necessary. During hot, dry conditions watering may be required twice daily, however under normal conditions once per day is sufficient.

Fertilizing

All plants were fertilized with a slow release fertilizer upon installation. All fertilizing for trees, shrubs, and perennials should be done in the Spring with a slow release granular fertilizer. For improved growth, apply fertilizer in the Fall as well. If the plants are regularly watered and you want to encourage a lot of growth you can fertilize as often as every 8 weeks during the growing season with granular slow release plant fertilizers. In poor soils it would be better to use an organic fertilizer with Microrizae beneficial bacteria that helps stimulate root growth and promote healthier plants. Although it is not necessary for the plant's survival, it is beneficial until the plant's root system has become well established. All annuals should be watered with high quality liquid fertilizer such as Miracle Grow during the growing season.

Pruning

Shrubs and trees frequently do not require any pruning for several years after planting. However, once pruning becomes necessary it is recommended to have a professional maintenance company do all trimming and pruning since each species has different pruning requirements. Either become an expert, or have a professional from J's Custom Landscaping do it for you so that you protect your investment. Perennials should be cut back in the fall once they have died back. Most ornamental grasses should be cut back in the spring 2-3" from the ground before new growth emerges.

For questions about pricing and other details of our seasonal service or maintenance packages, please ***get in touch with us: (info@JsCustomLandscaping.com or 360.521.1479)***