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Your Hydro-seed Lawn

Clark's has used the newest and best selections of grass seeds and blended them together for maximum beauty and the lowest maintenance. We have added to the seed mixture; fertilizer, water, and a moisture grabbing mulch. However, this mixture isn't grass yet, and if you're wondering what to do next, follow the steps outlined below and the lawn will be up before you know it. You have 45 days to "make or break" your hydro-seed lawn. Here's what to do and also what to expect from your new lawn:

Weeks 1 and 2 Care

Grass seed is extremely vulnerable to sun and wind because it germinates on the surface of the soil. Every time the surface dries out, a percentage of the seed becomes less viable. To combat this, apply light sprinklings that moisten the surface three times daily. Start watering in the early morning, then again by mid-day, and finally late afternoon. Avoid watering in the evening.

Results

At the end of the two weeks, you will see the hybrid rye grass growing throughout your lawn. If you begin to see weeds, mow them down to shock their development.

Weeks 3 and 4 Care

Continue watering as before; three times daily with light sprinkling. Always keep the surface moist, especially during the heat of the day, but not mushy. The more consistent the watering schedule, the better your lawn will grow. At this time you should apply a normal lawn fertilizer (make sure there is no weed-killer additive) and continue to do so on a monthly basis. You may need to begin mowing the lawn at this time, keeping it low the first couple of times. Pick up clippings if necessary.

Results

At the end of these two weeks, the fescue seed should also be germinating. If weeds appear in the lawn, continue to mow them down as low as possible. The lawn may appear spotty, patchy, and even bare in some areas. This is completely normal, as is the appearance of weeds.

Weeks 5 and 6 Care

Water more deeply and regularly every day. Never skip regular watering for longer than one day unless weather dictates otherwise. Apply weed killer only after mowing the lawn 3 to 4 times. Mow the lawn at a height of 2-2 1/2". This will help to shade the soil and slow weed growth. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade length at each cutting. Most weeds will die with the first frost, leaving only lawn grasses.

Results

During this time period, the bluegrass selections will have started sprouting. They comprise approximately 60% of the total seed mix. The other 40% have sprouted, but are not yet mature; the new fertilizer should help them fill out in size and color. The lawn may still look patchy and uneven...don't worry; it will even out once the individual plants begin to send out shoots and "grow together."

First Year Care

By now, the lawn should look mostly full and much less patchy. Congratulations on a job well done! Continue to feed monthly with lawn food during the growing season for one full year. Water on a regular basis avoiding large gaps in your applications. Apply broadleaf weed killers if needed.

Second Year and Beyond Care

Feed your lawn three to four times per season. Apply broadleaf weed killer and crabgrass preventer as needed. Water enough to prevent a "burn-out" of your lawn which can allow weed seeds that are otherwise dormant to sprout. Water in the morning or mid afternoon during really hot weather to reduce heat stress on new grass. Do not power rake or remove thatch until it is 3/4" thick (6-10 years). Thatch serves as a protective blanket to protect your lawn.