

## NEW LAWN CARE

### MOWING YOUR LAWN:

A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass blades are 3" tall. Delaying the first cutting will cause the long grass blades to bend over, resulting in reduced germination of remaining seed. The first several mowings the grass clippings should be bagged and removed from the lawn. Subsequent mowing should be done weekly and lawn mower blades should always be maintained sharp to prevent bruised and torn grass. Ideal mowing height in spring and fall is 2 – 2 ½" and 3 – 3 ½" during the hot summer months.

### WATERING THE FIRST 14 DAYS:

Keep the seed bed moist at all times. Frequent light watering, 2 times daily, 15-20 minutes per zone. Do not let the seed dry out.

### WATERING YOUR ESTABLISHED LAWN:

Watering is most effective if done during the early morning hours when sunlight cannot cause excessive evaporation and when the grass blades will dry quickly. Watering in the evening results in the blades remaining wet overnight and leads to increase disease activity. After your lawn becomes established, it requires approximately 1" of water per week every other day, 30 minutes per zone. The soil should be soaked thoroughly when watered. Water should penetrate at least 4" into the soil to insure deep rooting.

### FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN:

A commercial starter fertilizer was applied with your lawn seed and hydro-mulch fibers. This initial application of fertilizer should provide the nutrients to give the young grass seedlings a healthy start. We follow up with an application of slow-release turf fertilizer in 4 – 6 weeks. We do not recommend any weed controls within the first growing season of your new lawn.

### MAINTAINING SHADED AREAS:

Shaded areas require some additional effort to assure healthy turf. Turf in these areas usually suffer in the following ways:

- Tree root systems tend to rob nutrients and moisture from the grass.
- Lack of sunlight caused by the shading of trees.
- Fallen leaves create a matted condition which prevents the turf from adequate exposure to sunlight and air.
- An acidic soil.

Adequate nutrients for turf can be provided by fertilizing trees and heavily fertilizing the turf. Leaves should be raked early in the spring while the tree branches are still bare to allow the maximum amount of sunlight to reach this grass which is generally shaded throughout the remainder of the growing season. Large yard trees can be thinned to allow light to penetrate their canopy as another measure to combat shading problems. An application of lime each fall will help to control soil acidity.

### PEST CONTROL:

A healthy lawn that is properly cared for will rarely show significant signs of insect damage. Pests are present at all times in your lawn. If visible damage has been observed, chemical treatment is recommended. If the problem persists, it is best to contact a lawn specialist.