



“Making Neighborhoods Beautiful One Yard at a Time”

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## Watering Instructions

*Twins Lawn Service would like to thank you for choosing us as your preferred landscape installer. The installed or purchased plant or grass material is accompanied with a limited warranty as indicated in our Landscape & Plant Warranty:*

***IF YOU FAIL TO WATER YOUR PLANTS, THEY WILL DIE. A PLANT THAT HAS DIED DUE TO DROUGHT OR LACK OF WATER IS NOT COVERED UNDER OUR WARRANTY.***

### General Water Wisdom:

- Water slowly, avoid runoff
- Make sure water penetrates deeply to establish healthy roots
- Avoid frequent, light sprinkling
- Measure rate of flow from your hose, or use a can or bucket of known volume
- Soaker hoses and a timer system may be used to save time and money, however you must ensure that sufficient water penetrates the root ball of each plant
- Water not only under the drip line of the plant, but also several feet out from this. Otherwise, dry soil will wick away moisture from roots.
- Account for rainfall and weather conditions
- Sandy, dry soils need more water
- In the heat of summer, you may have to water more often.
- Check soil moisture by physical inspection
- Too much water can kill plants; soil should never be soggy. Roots need air as well as water.

### Plants:

- If planting occurs in the Spring water 3 times minimum per week, for the first 3 weeks, whether it rains or not, then after the first 3 weeks, water twice per week minimum whether it rains or not.
- If the planting occurs in the Fall, and the plant still has leaves, following the aforementioned watering guidelines until the leaves fall off. If the plant has lost its leaves, soak thoroughly one time after planting. Begin watering again in the spring when the new foliage appears, following the aforementioned watering guidelines. Monitor the plants after the first 3 weeks and apply additional water as necessary. It is best to water early in the morning to prevent evaporation, or not if watered too late in the day.

## **Grass seed & hydroseed:**

- Newly seeded lawns require a continuous supply of moisture for germination and root establishment. This moisture must come from rainfall or irrigation (manual or automatic). It is highly improbable that it will rain every day for the four weeks following seed installation. It is the responsibility of the property owner to water frequently to keep the soil moist to ensure seed propagation.
- In times of heavy rains, after a new grass seed application, some pooling, puddling or webbing can occur. Overseeding by hand or raking these rivulets with a soft rake can help re-distribute the seed evenly as necessary.
- Your lawn needs food to survive. Lush green lawns are the product of continuous care, proper mowing techniques and fertilizer / pest programs. Seeding is only the first step in achieving a lush green lawn with sufficient, sustainable root structures.
- Don't get pessimistic... grass takes time to germinate and grow. Expect 7-10 days after seeding to see any germination and up to 3 or 4 weeks for full growth.
  - Typical lawn propagation takes two full growing seasons with proper maintenance to achieve a mature product. It is your responsibility to propagate this product post seed application.
- **Initial watering**
  - Keep newly seeded grass areas consistently moist until an even stand of seedling growth is established.
  - During the establishment phase, watering once a day during months of March through April is generally sufficient. On hot summer days, watering three to four times a day may be necessary.
    - Initially, water for 5 minutes twice daily for the first 3 to 4 weeks following planting.
  - Try to avoid puddling or washing, but water thoroughly; avoid water run-off as this will prevent seed from washing away.
  - A secondary phase of watering can begin once the grass is 1" tall. Reduce frequency to 3 to 5 times per week (every other day). Hot summer will require five or six times per week. Reduce watering during wet or cool periods.
    - Decrease the amount of water gradually as lawn starts to fill in to encourage deeper rooting.
- **Mowing**
  - A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass blades are 2-3" tall. Delay in your first cutting encourages weed growth and causes long blades to bend over and subsequently tear when cut. This can result in burning of the grass.
  - Mowing also encourages lawn propagation which "chokes" out weeds.
  - Subsequent mowing should be completed every week with sharp mower blades. The general rule is to never mow more than one-third of the grass length in any one cutting.
- **Weeds**
  - Weeds are commonplace in any new lawn. It is a matter of fact that you will not be able to prevent weeds from seeding in your newly seeded lawn. These seeds are airborne and will find a place in the lawn. Weeds are worked out with the first full season of lawn care application.
  - DO NOT use weed killer or pre-emergent fertilizer on a new lawn. It will prevent a newly seeded lawn from growing properly.

- **Fertilizer**

- The new grass will need a strong application of starter fertilizer after the first mowing and again 30 days later. Apply fertilizer on the lawn area when it is dry and then water thoroughly.
- Use a standard starter fertilizer (like 19-19-19)
- DO NOT use weed and feed products on a new lawn.

**Shrubs and Trees:**

- Roots of newly planted trees and shrubs must be kept steadily moist, but not soggy, as the developing roots establish in the soil.
  - Water the root ball and not the leaves/ foliage
- The amount of supplemental water needed each week during the first season after planting depends on rainfall, temperature, wind and soil conditions.
  - If less than 1 inch of rain has fallen in five to seven days, the plants must be watered or they may not survive.
  - Maintain weekly watering, as needed, until the ground freezes in the fall.
- In general, ten gallons of water applied twice a week will wet the root ball sufficiently and provide the equivalent of one inch of rainfall.
- Run water at a consistent rate each time:
  - Set a timer
  - Keep the root mass moist. It will dry out more quickly than the surrounding back-filled soil.
  - Monitor the soil moisture