

Grass Seed Watering & Care Instructions

People have been growing lawns for decades. Most of all your neighboring yards all started from grass seed. Ok folks, I've been in business since 1990 and it seems that over the last few years my beloved clients are having less patience with growing and developing grass from seed. I attribute this loss in patience to the smart phone app age we now live in where we're used to pushing buttons from anywhere on earth and we instantly have results. The reality is – grass seed is still a product of nature 😊

When a newborn child is born it's usually brought into this world with the assistance of a doctor. The doctor will assist with delivering the infant and from there it is the responsibility and up to the parents to nurture and care for the child. The same theory goes for grass seed. We the contractor will sow the seed, and after we put the seed on the ground it is up to you the client to nurture the seed into a stand of grass.

1. Grass seeds will germinate successfully in normal soils when the surface temperature of the soil does not go below 50 degrees, and where the daytime soil temperature exceeds 60 degrees. Grass seeds also need adequate moisture and adequate sunlight. The number one reason for grass seeds not germinating is lack of moisture, too little heat, too much heat, and freezing temperatures.
2. For the grass seeds to germinate properly, the soil should remain **moist** throughout the germination period. Don't water so heavily that the water will puddle, but keep the soil moist.
3. After the grass germinates and as it starts growing, it is also developing roots. This means that you will have to slightly increase watering as the grass grows to allow for the water to penetrate the soil for the roots to absorb. You will have to rely on your best judgment for this just like you would when feeding a newborn child.
4. BE CAREFUL. Overwatering may cause the seeds to rot.
5. Once the grass grows do not stop watering. Use your judgment. If it's hot and dry outside – then water the new grass. If you go on vacation – then set up the sprinklers and ask someone to water the new grass while you're gone.
6. The amount of weed seeds in the grass is specifically stated on the package. In most cases the weed percentages is less than 1/4 of 1% or .25%. The weeds that have emerged are therefore not coming from the grass seed package. The weed seeds are probably resident in the soil and the weather conditions have been favorable for their emergence. In particular, hot weather (above 85 degrees) is particularly favorable for weed seeds in lawns planted with cool season grasses. After the 3rd mowing you may have the new grass treated for weed control. The grass will be competing with the weeds and the weeds will win. Therefore, it is necessary to spray the weeds so they die which will allow the grass to develop.