

Watering your new grass

FULL LAWN RESTORATION • AERATE, OVERSEED, TOPDRESS, FEED

PROPERTY

SEEDED ON

WATER TWICE A DAY UNTIL

Your lawn has been core aerated, overseeded, topdressed with compost and given a starter feed. Everything equipment can do has been done. What happens next is decided almost entirely by water, and that part is yours.

New grass seed dies from one dry afternoon. An established lawn does not.

1. The first two weeks, until you see green

- **Twice a day.** Morning and evening, every day.
- **Approximately 15 to 20 minutes** each time, on each area. Long enough to wet the top inch of soil, short enough that nothing pools or runs off.
- **The target is damp, not wet.** If you press a finger into the compost and it comes up dry, you are already behind.
- **Rain counts.** If rain has kept the surface damp, skip that watering.
- **Timing.** Early morning and early evening are best. Watering in the middle of a hot afternoon loses most of it to evaporation.

2. Weeks three and four, once the grass is up

- **Once a day.** Longer each time, so the water reaches deeper and the roots follow it down.
- **Then taper.** Every second or third day, as the new grass thickens.
- **After four weeks.** Deep and less often is correct from there on, and through a Durham autumn the rain usually handles it.

3. Four things that will cost you the lawn

- **Letting it dry out once.** A single hot dry afternoon in the first two weeks can end a seeding. This is the one that catches people.
- **Mowing too early.** Let the new grass reach about 7.5 cm, which is three inches, before the first cut. Cutting earlier pulls the seedlings out by the root.
- **Leaves left on it.** Wet leaves smother new seedlings inside a week. Lift them off with a blower or a light fan rake, never a hard raking.
- **Walking on it.** Keep foot traffic, play and pets off the new areas for about a month.

4. What you should expect to see

- **First green in roughly one to three weeks.** Ryegrass comes up first and bluegrass is slower, so the lawn fills in unevenly before it evens out. Thin patches at this stage are normal and usually close on their own.
- **The soil plugs stay where they are.** They break down on their own within a few weeks. Please do not rake them up. They are feeding the soil.
- **Before winter.** The seedlings need approximately six to eight weeks of root growth before the ground freezes, which is why this work is done when it is done.

The one part of this job we cannot do for you is the watering.

That is why the compost topdressing is included in the price rather than sold as an extra. It roughly doubles the time the seedlings can survive between waterings. It buys you room. It does not replace the water.



NORTHLINE

PROPERTY CARE

LAWN & SNOW REMOVAL

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Twenty eight days. Tick each one off.

PUT THIS ON THE FRIDGE • TWICE A DAY FOR TWO WEEKS, THEN ONCE A DAY

PROPERTY

FIRST WATERING ON

DAY 1 TO 7, TWICE A DAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MORNING							
EVENING							

DAY 8 TO 14, TWICE A DAY

	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
MORNING							
EVENING							

DAY 15 TO 21, ONCE A DAY, LONGER EACH TIME

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
WATERED							

DAY 22 TO 28, ONCE A DAY, THEN BACK TO NORMAL

	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
WATERED							

Three things worth repeating

- **Twice a day.** Morning and evening, approximately 15 to 20 minutes each time, until you see green.
- **Rain counts.** If rain has kept the surface damp, tick the box and skip the watering.
- **Do not mow early.** Let the new grass reach about 7.5 cm, which is three inches, before the first cut.

After day fourteen, move to once a day for two weeks, then back to normal.

Deep and less often is what builds roots. The full schedule is on the other side of this sheet.