



Hydroseed Quick Guide

What to Expect During Establishment

Germination Timeline

- Tall Fescue (TTTF): 7-14 days
- Kentucky Bluegrass (KBG): 14-21 days

Cool soil temperatures may delay germination.

Early Growth (Weeks 2-4)

- Uneven sprouting is normal
- Color variation is normal
- Minor thinning is normal
- Some weeds may appear

Disturbed soil activates dormant weed seed. Early weed presence does not indicate failure.

First Mowing (Weeks 4-6)

- Mow at 3½-4 inches
- Never remove more than ⅓ of blade height

Full Establishment

- Visible fill-in: 6-8 weeks
- Mature density and durability: 6-9 months

Hydroseeding is not instant sod. Patience produces stronger, deeper-rooted turf.

Quick Care Guide

Watering (Most Important)

Proper watering is the single most important factor in successful establishment.

First 2-4 Weeks:

- Keep top 1-2 inches of soil consistently moist
- Water 2-3 times per day for short sessions (5-10 minutes)
- Water early morning and daytime when possible
- Adjust for temperature and rainfall

After Germination:

- Transition to fewer, deeper watering sessions
- Encourage deeper root growth

Inconsistent watering is the most common cause of establishment issues.

Mowing

- First mow at 3½-4 inches
- Never remove more than ⅓ of blade height
- Use sharp blades
- Alternate mowing direction
- Avoid mowing saturated soil



For detailed care
instructions, visit
cardinalearthworks.com

Fertilization

- Starter fertilizer is included in your hydroseed mix
- Apply follow-up fertilizer 4–6 weeks after installation
- Use seasonally appropriate fertilizer
- Avoid weed-and-feed products until grass has been mowed 4–5 times

Traffic & Disturbance

- Avoid foot traffic for 6–8 weeks
- Keep pets, vehicles, and equipment off seeded areas
- Uneven growth due to shade or moisture differences is normal

Weeds

- Some weed presence during establishment is normal
- Do not apply weed control for the first 6–8 weeks
- A thick, healthy lawn is the best long-term weed prevention

Establishment Standards and Limited Warranty Summary

A successful establishment is defined as:

- Flat areas: $\geq 75\%$ visible grass coverage
- Sloped areas: $\geq 80\%$ visible grass coverage
- No continuous bare areas exceeding 3 square feet
- Observable improvement within 28 days of germination

Minor thinning, color variation, uneven growth, or early weed presence does not constitute failure.

Warranty Exclusions

This limited establishment warranty does not apply to:

- Improper or inconsistent watering
- Foot traffic, pets, vehicles, or construction activity
- Erosion from extreme rainfall or freeze–thaw cycles
- Heat stress without irrigation
- Chemical damage or early herbicide application
- Seasonal dormancy or slow early growth

We typically wait until at least 21 days after germination begins before performing any warranty evaluations. Some early thinning or patchiness is normal during establishment and usually fills in with proper care.

If you notice any major areas of non-performance, please give us a call - we're happy to take a look.

The Cardinal Earthworks Standard

We use professional-grade seed blends, fertilizer, and application methods designed for strong, healthy turf.

Hydroseeding delivers excellent long-term results when paired with proper care and realistic expectations.

Consistency + Patience = Exceptional Results.