



Hydroseed Care Guide & Establishment Standards

Complete Client Reference Guide

Welcome to Your New Lawn

Congratulations! Your new hydroseeded lawn is an exciting step toward a healthy, lush, long-lasting yard. We know it can be a little nerve-racking watching those tiny seeds germinate, so we've put together this guide to walk you through what to expect, how to care for your lawn, and what our warranty covers. Think of this as your roadmap to success - and don't worry, we're here if questions pop up along the way.

1. How Hydroseeding Works

Hydroseeding isn't like laying sod. It's a living, growing process. When we spray your lawn with our high-quality seed blend, fertilizer, and mulch, the magic begins - but it's a process that takes time and care.

Your grass is going to grow in stages, and there will be little surprises along the way. Sun, soil, moisture, and weather all play a role. With proper attention, patience, and consistent care, your lawn will reward you with deep roots, thick coverage, and long-term durability.

Think of hydroseeding like planting a garden - you'll see the early sprouts, watch them fill in, and eventually enjoy a beautiful, mature lawn.

2. What to Expect During Establishment

Germination Timeline

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

Sometimes it's faster, sometimes it's slower - the weather and soil temperature will be the boss here. Early spring applications may stay dormant for a while until the soil warms up enough.

Weeks 1-2: The Early Sprouts

During the first week or two, your lawn may look... well... a little patchy. That's completely normal. You might see the green mulch start peeking through. Some areas will sprout faster than others. Don't worry - this unevenness is expected and will even out as your lawn grows.

Weeks 2-4: Filling In

As seedlings continue to grow, you'll notice gradual coverage. Some areas may still be a little thin, and you might spot a few weeds. This is totally normal. Early weed presence is common - it doesn't mean your lawn is failing. Uneven growth, minor color variations, and tiny bare spots are all part of the process. Mother Nature just likes to keep things interesting.

Weeks 4-6: Time to Mow!

Once your grass hits about 3½-4 inches tall, it's ready for its first trim. Here are a few tips to make that first mow successful:

- Don't cut more than ⅓ of the blade at a time
- Keep mower blades sharp
- Change the mowing direction each time
- Avoid mowing wet or muddy areas

This first mowing is critical - it encourages upright growth and helps your lawn thicken nicely.

Months 2-3: Strengthening Phase

During this period, roots are getting deeper, and coverage is filling in. The lawn starts to look more uniform, and the color will brighten. Some thin areas may still exist, but they'll gradually improve as long as you maintain watering, mowing, and light fertilization.

Months 6-9: Full Establishment

By this point, your lawn should have a strong root system, thick coverage, and good color. It will be resilient and durable, ready to handle foot traffic and everyday life. Remember, hydroseeding rewards patience and consistent care - it's a long game that pays off.

3. Quick Notes on Care

Let's talk watering, mowing, fertilization, traffic, and weeds - all the things that keep your lawn happy.

Watering (Most Important)

Watering is hands-down the most important thing you can do to make your hydroseed succeed.

First 2-4 Weeks:

- Keep the top 1-2 inches of soil consistently moist
- Water 2-3 times per day in short sessions (5-10 minutes)
- Early morning and daytime watering is best; try to avoid late evenings
- Adjust based on heat, sun, and rain

After Seedlings Appear:

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

Pro tip: Consistency is everything. Your lawn will thrive if the soil stays damp but not waterlogged.

Mowing

- First mow at 3½-4 inches
- Never remove more than ⅓ of the blade height at a time
- Use sharp blades and alternate mowing direction
- Avoid mowing wet or muddy soil

Proper mowing helps your lawn thicken and grow upright.

Fertilization

- Starter fertilizer is already in your hydroseed mix
- Apply a follow-up fertilizer 4-6 weeks after installation
- Use a seasonally appropriate fertilizer
- Don't use weed-and-feed or chemical herbicides until your grass has been mowed at least 4-5 times

Fertilizer keeps your lawn green, healthy, and strong while it's establishing.

Traffic & Disturbance

Your new lawn is fragile early on:

- Limit foot traffic for the first 6-8 weeks
- Keep pets and vehicles off newly seeded areas
- Avoid construction or heavy equipment traffic

Damage from traffic isn't covered under warranty, so treat your lawn gently during this time.

Weeds

Some weeds during the first weeks are normal. Soil disturbance, wind, and even birds can introduce seeds.

Remember:

- Do not apply weed control in the first 6-8 weeks
- Minor early weeds will often disappear as your lawn thickens
- A dense, healthy lawn is the best natural defense against weeds

4. Establishment Standards & Limited Warranty

We stand behind our work, but we also have to respect the limits of nature.

What Counts as a Successful Establishment

- Flat areas: $\geq 75\%$ visible grass coverage
- Sloped areas: $\geq 80\%$ visible grass coverage
- No continuous bare areas larger than 3 sq ft
- Improvement visible by 28 days after germination

Minor thinning, color variation, patchiness, or early weed presence does not count as failure.

Exclusions

This warranty does not cover issues caused by:

- 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 use
- Seasonal dormancy or naturally slow spring growth
- Poor soil or compaction not addressed prior to installation

Evaluation Timing

We typically wait until at least 21 days after germination begins before performing any warranty evaluations. Early thinning, uneven growth, or light patchiness is very common during the establishment period and usually fills in with proper watering and time.

If you notice any significant areas of non-performance or have concerns along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're happy to take a look and make sure everything is progressing as expected.

5. Environmental & Seasonal Considerations

Different seasons affect your lawn:

- **Spring:** Early plantings may stay dormant until soil warms
- **Summer:** More frequent watering is required
- **Fall:** Slower top growth but strong root development
- **Shaded areas:** Grass grows slower; this is normal

Your lawn may look uneven initially - that's expected.

6. Optional Enhancements

For even better results:

- Soil preparation or grading
- Adding topsoil amendments
- Installing irrigation systems
- Using temporary sprinklers

These steps are optional but can dramatically improve long-term success.

7. Final Thoughts

Hydroseeding is a proven, professional-grade method for establishing turf. It's cost-effective, produces deep-rooted grass, and provides excellent long-term results.

Remember: **Consistency + Patience = Beautiful Lawn**

We're here for support, evaluations, and advice if you ever have questions. Your success is our success - we want you to enjoy your new lawn for years to come.

