

Establishing Grass

Here are a few tips and reminders to help you establish your lawn from either seed or sod.

- **Watering:** This is first on the list because watering is very important for new grass. The roots are very shallow, this means that the grass does not have as much access to the water in the soil as established turf stands. Regular watering is needed to keep moisture available for the newly planted grass.
- **Fertilizer:** The newly planted grass is going to need regular feeding. The roots are not going to have access to nutrients in the soil like an established turf stand, so you have to bring the nutrients to the newly planted grass.
- **Foot Traffic:** It is best to avoid foot traffic, including pets, at all costs until the turf stand is established. Disrupting the soil can loosen or tear up the roots of the grass, resulting in thinner turf areas.
- **Birds:** Birds like to eat the seed. The less seed, the less grass plants that will grow. Scaring birds off helps to protect the turf stand when it is trying to become established.
- **Patience:** This is big. Growing grass is a slow process. It takes a while to get the grass to take root and sprout, then it takes even longer to get the turf stand fully established and looking its best.
- **Weeds:** Weeds are going to capitalize when fresh soil is exposed. Not much can be done to stop this. Hand pulling, but using care not to disrupt the soil, is the best solution if the weeds get too out of control.
- **Mowing:** Once the grass becomes long enough to have it mowed, it is best to start to maintain it to the recommended three inches. Care needs to be taken not to tear and damage the turf while mowing.
- **Turf Thickness:** This relates to patience, the turf is going to take a while to fully become established. The grass will fill in overtime with proper maintenance.

Establishing grass will require patience, and routine monitoring to make sure that the turf stand is establishing properly. If you have any questions, our website, www.harkeslandscape.com has many resources about growing and maintaining grass, as well as many other aspects of your lawn and landscape. Or you can contact us at (616) 534-4013 or harkes.landscape@gmail.com.

Thank you for choosing Harkes Landscape Management, LLC for your lawn establishment project.