



RYE BEACH

LANDSCAPING L.L.C.

Care Guide & Warrantees for Residential Landscape Plantings and Lawn Installations

Seed

Light rain showers do not always soak the soil enough. When in doubt... water! Don't allow the soil surface to dry out, as each time this occurs a percentage of the seed is lost. Watering should result in a **thorough soaking without runoff** and may be required up to three times per day (early morning, mid-day and early evening) depending on weather conditions.

I. Watering

The number one factor that determines the success or failure of your newly-seeded lawn is watering.

- Watering rule of thumb for **newly seeded lawns**: water 15-20 min 3x/day
- Watering rule of thumb for an **existing lawn**: water 20-30 min every other day.
- Newly seeded lawns need to be kept damp for up to 5 weeks to achieve the best results.
- Water may be reduced to twice daily **after 2 mowings** and once daily **after 4 mowings**.

II. Seed Germination

The better lawn grasses such as Kentucky Blue and Fescue take up to 3 weeks to germinate, so be patient and keep watering!

- Use a blower to keep leaves and debris off the soil
- Walking on it is OK for the purposes of moving sprinklers and debris
- Starter fertilizer must be applied **after 3 weeks** to strengthen and improve the grass
- Please note that a minimum temperature of 50 degrees F is required for seed germination.

III. Fertilizer and Weed Control

Weed competition is normal with newly seeded lawns. Don't panic! Most weeds are annual, and your lawn will ultimately win.

- Weeds and crabgrass should be expected during the seed germination stage; and especially in spring seeded lawns and during hot weather.
- Do not apply pre-emergent crabgrass control ("Step-1") to soil prior to or during germination period – unless the product is specifically for newly seeded lawns
- Apply a regular regimen of fertilizer and weed control (if needed) after 4 mowings

IV. Mowing

Believe it or not, your grass WILL grow. Here are some mowing tips to minimize the stress on your new turf grass.

- Mow when grass reaches 3". Bag clippings for the first month.
- Never mow shorter than 3". This keeps the soil surface shaded, reducing drought and weed problems.
- Keep your mower blades sharp to reduce lawn stress and fungus
- Mow once a week and do not cut off more than 1/3 of the blade in any one mowing

V. Annual Lawn Maintenance

Your best lawn is the following year after seeding! Please feel free to call with questions, we're here to help!

- Hire a lawn care service or follow a 4-step lawn care program diligently – timing is critical – especially the first step (crabgrass control) in early spring
- Water all sections evenly for 20-30 minutes every other day. A lawn irrigation system is ideal for this.
- You may have to overseed in areas of washout or shady areas for best coverage. This is best done in late summer/early fall.

Sod

I. Watering

New sod is very thirsty! A consistent regimen of deep-watering will ensure the grass roots take quickly to the soil.

- On the **first day** of installation make sure that all areas of new sod get 2 hours of watering.
- The **second day** and for the **next 2 weeks**, 30-40 min of watering 3 times per day - preferably early morning, mid-day and early evening.
- After two weeks, watering can be decreased to 15 – 20 min 2x/day.
- Water thoroughly enough to soak the sod through to the underlying soil and down about an inch. If it rains a *significant* amount you can reduce watering.
- Watch for drying edges and seams and soak those areas more if needed.

II. Fertilizer and Weed Control

Sod grass is technically a mature plant, so the fertilizing schedule is not as restrictive as a lawn grown from seed.

- Sod should be fertilized with a starter fertilizer right away
- Maintain standard fertilizer program (Summer, Fall) every 5-6 weeks
- Avoid products with weed control unless weeds are an issue (they shouldn't be)

III. Mowing

Your sod lawn may look like it's been there forever, but it hasn't! Care needs to be taken until it is firmly rooted in.

- New sod may be mowed when it is ready. Mow slowly and avoid sudden turns.
- Bag clippings for the first month
- Never mow shorter than 3"
- Keep your mower blades sharp to reduce lawn stress and fungus
- Mow once a week and do not cut off more than 1/3 of the blade in any one mowing

Trees and Shrubs

I. Watering

Watering requirements for trees and shrubs are very different than turf grass. Rain showers and lawn sprinkler systems do not provide adequate water for plants! The goal is to soak the plant's root ball all the way through.

However, be careful not to over-water because plant roots need **oxygen** as well as water. Many trees and shrubs will show signs of **wilt** when **over-watered** as well as when **dry**. Soaker hoses and irrigation system drip zones are a great way to ensure your plants are getting consistent watering.

- New trees and shrubs should be soaked through at installation and maintained with regular watering.
- To water your plants, place a hose right at the base of the trunk and turn it on at a pencil-sized trickle. This may take from 20 min up to 2 hrs. depending on the size of the plant.
- Check just beneath the soil surface and keep it neither soggy nor bone dry, but somewhere in between. Poke your finger down an inch or two below the surface to determine if the soil has dried in the root zone. Weather conditions (summer heat, excessive rain) will determine how quickly this happens. Adjust your watering routine accordingly.
- **New Plants:** drip water 30 – 45 min every other day
- **Established Plants:** drip water 30 – 45 min every 3 -4 days

II. Fertilizing

“First roots...then shoots.” New trees and shrubs need an established root system before they can begin pushing out top growth. This takes time – typically about 3 years. Our landscape crews condition the soil in the planting hole with root stimulant. This helps the roots take to the new soil.

- *First year:* Use no fertilizer.
- *Second year:* Use a slow-release, mycorrhizae-rich fertilizer like Holly-Tone in the spring before mulching.
- *Third year:* Use a slow-release organic fertilizer or a low-nitrogen garden fertilizer like 10-10-10.
- Professional tree services can provide deep root fertilizing as well.

III. Other Maintenance Items

Once established, your landscape plants will require little maintenance. The plant material we have selected for you will grow into the space where it is planted naturally and should require only a few seasonal tasks to keep them healthy.

- Protect broadleaf evergreens from winter damage with an anti-desiccant spray (Wilt-Pruf)
- Maintain a mulch circle around the drip line of the tree to protect the bark from weed encroachment.
- Add an inch or so of bark mulch each year to help retain moisture and inhibit weeds.
- Do not pile mulch around trunk as it can rot the bark.
- Some light pruning may be done to correct branch structure in year two. Shearing should be avoided (unless it's a hedge) as it disfigures the natural shape of the plant and creates more work to maintain it.
- Remove any support wires or bark protection tape from initial planting in year two.

Warrantees

Quality Guarantee

All the plant material that we install meets or exceeds industry standards. Plants are sourced from local nurseries and are consistent with our USDA Hardiness zone (4 & 5). Both plants and grass seed will be true to name and in good shape when installed. Hydroseed will consist of wood/paper fibers, USDA certified seed and fertilizer.

Warrantees

- Hydroseed is not warranted against washout or drought
- Plant material – including trees, shrubs, perennials and sod - is warranted for replacement due to **defect or installation error** only until Dec 1st of the year it was planted unless otherwise noted.

Conditions and Exclusions

- Rye Beach Landscaping shall determine qualifications for replacement.
- No warranty on any material is given to cover weather, diseases or insects, acts of God or anything else which is out of our control, such as watering bans enacted by local municipalities due to drought or other reasons.
- Warranties are valid only if maintenance requirements detailed on this document have been met.

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