



LAWN MAINTENANCE

Congratulations on choosing an Erosion Control Lawn

Our job is now done. The seed and fertiliser has been well mixed and every effort has been made to ensure an even coverage over your lawn.

We now hand the responsibility of creating the lawn that you desire back to you. The lawn you achieve will be a result of how well you follow these important instructions

Read carefully (your lawn needs your help)

Watering

We have given your lawn the best possibility of success. Now it is your turn to nurture it into the type of lawn you are hoping for.

One of the most crucial areas is maintaining the correct moisture levels. It is very important that the young seedlings do not dry out as they will die easily until they have established a significant root structure.

Light frequent sprinklings are always the best however a good 20-30-minute application over the entire area morning and night will suffice (something like 2-3mm per application). You don't want to see any water runoff, but you are trying to soak the top 40mm of soil. (It is a good idea to periodically check that your soil is damp down to this 40 mm depth) You may need to pay extra attention to areas beside buildings and walls as these areas may dry out quicker and they may also receive less rain. It is not uncommon to see a strip alongside the house that has not germinated even when the rest of the lawn is ready to mow if it is left for nature to do the watering.

After 3 weeks of this you can now settle into a more relaxed maintenance watering program. A good solid 40-minute watering 2-3 times per week may be necessary in the warmer months while one good watering will be all that is required in more moderate weather. (Something in the range of 25-30mm per week) Visually inspect the lawn and adjust watering as required, you will get to know certain areas that may require more frequent watering.

Remember that the deeper you soak the ground the deeper the grass roots will grow and the healthier your lawn will be.

Please record the watering you have given your lawn on the attached chart.

Germination

You may find that your lawn does not germinate evenly. There are a few reasons for this such as soil moisture levels, shading and double coverage of hydroseed mix.

Some areas may germinate and grow quicker due to the variations in soil temp, soil type and moisture levels across your lawn area. The point to note here is that there is plenty of seed on all areas and soon your lawn will be nice and even. However, if you feel that an area is light in grass plants sprinkle sparingly with some seeds supplied. (Note that one plant will easily cover 150cm² in 6 months)

Additional seeding may sometimes be required along the edges of concrete surfaces that have been washed and the water run off has eroded the hydroseed cover.

Drainage

Your lawn needs water, but it also needs air in the soil. If your lawn has poor drainage and the soil gets saturated with water for more than a few days your lawn will start to die. This is always worst in the first year as the new soil will not yet have a decent structure. Gradually earthworms will appear in your soil and they are great at enhancing the soils structure.

Mowing

When your lawn is around 50mm long it is time to start mowing it. Check that your blades are sharp and always use a catcher. Make the first cut a light cut leaving 30-35 mm of length. This will help the grass to tiller, produce more leaves and thicken up. If you let the lawn get too long the opposite will happen.

Regular mowing should take the lawn down to around 20mm, but you could increase this to 30mm in the summer months.

Keep those mower blades sharp a quick rub every month is all that is needed.

Fertilising

Your lawn has been applied with enough fertiliser for 4-5 weeks. Your lawn will lose its colour and tend to go yellow when it gets hungry however a regular 8-10 week feeding program will prevent this. You will be able to miss a couple of feeds through the wettest months as your lawn will not be growing very much.

Read and follow the fertiliser label instructions when applying fertiliser as too much will poison your lawn. It is best to use a spinner to apply the fertiliser as you will achieve a much more even distribution. It is a good idea to give the lawn a good watering after applying fertiliser to wash the nutrients into the soil. Try to keep fertiliser out of water ways and the drainage system.

Fungus and diseases

Fungus and diseases may attack your lawn. Keep an eye out for patches that start to die off for no apparent reason; this is particularly important in the first year as your lawn will be very susceptible to attack. Following your watering program and ensuring sufficient water has been applied will reduce the likelihood of attack from fungus. However, if you suspect that something may be wrong call your lawn maintenance expert or contact us and we will be able to get you in contact with someone who specializes in maintenance issues.

View our website for a suggested prevention spray program. (www.lawncreations.co.nz)

Infertile soil

If we have grassed onto your existing soil you may notice that some areas do not grow as well as others. This can be because of the variance in the soil's natural fertility and moisture retention ability. When your lawn is fully established these areas will not be so noticeable, but throughout the establishment phase these areas may require a bit of extra attention to determine the reason (too dry, too wet, low fertility, too shaded). Take appropriate action as suggested in this guide.

Weed Control

If left unattended weeds will invade your lawn. The seeds are everywhere, in the soil, in the air, in the bird's tummies and even on you trusted lawnmower.

Weeds will be trying to invade your lawn as soon as we leave. These are easily controlled but it is important to wait for at least 12 weeks before applying any chemicals.

Read the labels carefully and apply as directed.

Shaded areas

Grass needs light to grow. Heavily shaded areas may not provide the grass with enough light to sustain life. Be aware of this but there is not much we can do.

Pets

Dogs and cats can be hard on new lawns not only through their digging up areas but sometimes the areas that they use as a potty may die. The only way to prevent this is to keep them off the lawn.

Damping Off

Damping Off can occur if the grass plants are too dense. As you can imagine each plant needs room to grow and expand however we need to use sufficient seed to get quick establishment. Sometimes you may find that the plant density is too high, and the lawn starts to suffer (going yellow with small tight leaves and sometimes the appearance leaves actually dieing). This usually begins to happen after the mowing cycle has started and the plants are starting to tiller (send up more leaves) and grow sideways. Use a turf rake (normal rake will do) to lightly scratch the affected areas (the objective is to remove some of the weaker plants), going in one direction after before mowing and the other direction before the next mow until the problem is sorted.

We are experts in lawn establishment

We are experts in lawn establishment and if you follow these instructions you will have a great lawn. Unfortunately, we have to charge for any repairs to your lawn so please follow this maintenance guide carefully.

Lawn Maintenance

If you have problems with your lawn that persist even after following these instructions, we can put you in contact with a lawn maintenance specialist in your area.



Watering Record

Fill out this chart with the amount of water your lawn receives in mm.

Mark the watering system used.

Handheld hose.....

Sprinkler.....

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Moisture depth
Morning								
Afternoon								
Rain								

	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Moisture depth
Morning								
Afternoon								
Rain								

	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Moisture depth
Morning								
Afternoon								
Rain								

	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Moisture depth
Sun								
Tue								
Fri								
Rain								

Remember we are trying to achieve damp soil to a depth of at least 40 mm

We wish you many years of happy mowing.