

## **Care of Newly Seeded and Sodded Lawns**

Proper care of fresh seeding or sod is crucial for the establishment of a healthy lawn. It is very important to follow a few basic rules when trying to establish your new lawn:

### **Seeded Lawn**

- Watering seeds two or three times each day in small quantities over a period of two to three weeks will ensure proper moisture for germination. Seedlings are very sensitive to desiccation; if they dry out, they will die. As the plants begin to mature, the frequency of watering can taper off, but the volume of water should increase to moisten the root zone well.
- Mowing can begin when the seedlings reach a height of 1/3 higher than normal mowing height; typically at 3-4 inches.
- Fertilization with a nitrogen fertilizer will help with establishment; apply lightly when seedlings are between 1-1/2 and 2 inches tall.

### **Sodded Lawn**

- Immediately after transplanting sod, water thoroughly to promote deep root growth. Sod should not be allowed to dry out until a good union has developed between the sod and the surface of the soil.
- Keep sod watered thoroughly for at least the first week, especially if rain is insufficient. Do not soak sod at night. Lift the edge of a piece of sod to make sure water is penetrating down to the soil surface. Water 3-4 times daily; lightly during midday and more thoroughly as root penetration occurs in soil surface. Pay special attention to the corners and edges as they dry out quickly.
- Sod should not be mowed until the root system is firmly secured. The mower blade can be set at the same height used for established turfs.
- Fertilization should not be necessary until after the root system is well established.