

Seed Lawn Installation

Starting over

A new lawn installation is necessary if your existing lawn has a rough grade, is overly weedy, or too old to rejuvenate in a timely manner. A new lawn installation provides a uniform appearance across the entire turf area, which isn't always the case with spot seeding and renovations.

Seed installations are less expensive than sod lawn installations in the short run. However, the time, energy and water required to establish a new seed lawn is greater than that of a sod lawn, making the long-term cost of installation and establishment similar.



Picking the proper seed

Seed selection is critical to the success of your lawn installation. Seed installations provide more options when selecting turfgrass types. Factors to take into consideration are your site conditions and characteristics, your intended use, and the level of maintenance you intend to provide. These factors will determine which mix of turfgrass is right for your lawn.

Caring for your new lawn

Once the new lawn is installed, continuing care is critical to the long term success of the turf. Lawn Lad offers a Lawn Development Program to provide the necessary services to get your new lawn established and a guarantee that the installation is successful.

Installation steps

General steps in a new hydroseed lawn installation include:

- A soil test is recommended prior to the installation, but can be performed at a later date if the time frame before installation is too short. A soil test checks the pH and nutrient levels of the soil so necessary corrections can be made.
- Kill existing grass and weeds with non-selective herbicide in areas to be replaced.

- Create new beds or adjust existing beds prior to new lawn installation.
- After the turf is dead it may need to be removed if the thatch layer is more than 1/2". A sod cutter is used to remove the old lawn down to the soil.
- The lawn area is scarified and rototilled as necessary to prepare the rough grade, removing major high and low areas. All debris is removed from the lawn and hauled from the site.
- New top soil is added, raked out, rolled if necessary and finish graded for optimal drainage, creating an ideal seed bed.
- Hydroseeding the lawn, which includes a grass seed mixture, fertilizer and premium wood fiber mulch with tackifier.

The payoffs

Benefits of a hydroseed lawn installation:

- 1) Fast establishment:** Grass establishes faster than traditional seeding methods because seed are in constant contact with water and fertilizer, which helps them to germinate and sprout quickly once installed
- 2) Fewer weeds:** Fast establishment means fewer weeds than traditional seeding methods because new grass outgrows the weeds, preventing them from establishing. Further, hydro-mulch does not contain noxious weed seeds such as hay or straw, which can increase the number of weeds in your new lawn
- 3) Less pesticide use:** Fewer weeds require less herbicide use (weed killer) for your new lawn
- 4) Improved water retention:** Wood fiber mulch provides improved moisture retention because it is more evenly applied and is better at retaining moisture than straw or peat moss resulting in more complete and thorough germination
- 5) Reduced erosion:** Tackifiers (glue) help to stabilize newly graded soils by bonding the hydroseed slurry to the soil, helping to keep the seed and mulch on the soil. The tackifiers not only hold the soil in place, but quickly germinating seed begins to stabilize soil sooner minimizing run off and erosion, particularly on slopes.
- 6) Forgiving:** Compared with sod, seeded lawns can be touched up more easily if areas don't take or wash out. Repairs are relatively easy and inexpensive.



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See the FAQs regarding hydroseed lawn installations at www.lawnlad.com.

