



Lawn Seeding After Care Advice

Grass is a living plant and requires as much care and attention as any other garden plant, particularly when establishing. Now that we've overseeded or sown your new lawn, please follow these essential steps to help it establish and thrive:

- 1) Within the next 12 - 24 hours, gently water the seed, ideally using a hose with a gentle spray attachment. A standard hose on its own typically produces too forceful a stream of water, which can displace seeds and prevent proper bedding into the soil. Using a gentle spray ensures the seeds remain undisturbed, allowing them to germinate successfully. Be careful to water enough to keep the soil moist, but avoid saturating it.
- 2) Over the following days, if we don't get much rain, you must be sure to keep gently watering it. The key thing with seed is that it must not be allowed to dry out, so keep a close eye on the surface and use that as your guide. In cooler or more overcast conditions, every two to three days may well be sufficient, but in warmer or drier weather you may need to water every day. A light spell of rain won't be enough, so if in doubt, give it a gentle water to keep the soil consistently moist without being saturated.
- 3) Monitor the grass seeds closely. Once the new grass reaches approximately the length of your little finger (5 - 7cm), gently roll the lawn or walk carefully over it in flat shoes. This ensures good seed-to-soil contact, helping the grass stay secure when you mow. Although this step isn't always strictly necessary, it's recommended for best results.
- 4) Two or three days after step 3, when the new grass reaches 5 - 7.5cm, perform the first mow, reducing the grass height by no more than a third.
- 5) After this initial cut, mow your lawn at least once per week, starting at the highest mower setting. Gradually lower the blades until your new and existing grass are at the same height (if overseeded). Regular mowing prevents taller grass from blocking essential air, water, light, and nutrients from reaching the roots. For entirely new lawns, continue mowing at the highest setting until fully established, then progressively reduce the cutting height to your desired length.
- 6) Once established and growing at a consistent rate with the existing lawn, mowing every 7 - 10 days is sufficient. However, for a truly beautiful and healthy lawn, consider mowing more frequently - we often mow ours twice weekly. Regular mowing encourages stronger, thicker growth and significantly enhances appearance. Monitor your grass length; mow when it reaches half your little finger's length, always remembering never to remove more than a third of the grass height in one go.
- 7) Throughout germination and early establishment, keep foot traffic to a minimum and avoid placing items such as toys, furniture, or garden equipment on the lawn. This helps protect emerging grass, ensuring seeds remain undisturbed and have full access to water, air, nutrients, and sunlight.
- 8) Finally, birds. As beautiful and welcome in a garden, as they normally are, they can pose a threat by eating the newly sown seeds. There are many methods you can use to deter them, but these are our favourites.....
 - a) Cover the area with netting or thin fleece secured at the edges, making sure to remove it after a few days as soon as the seeds have germinated and bedded in. Leaving it too long risks grass getting tangled, making removal difficult and potentially tearing delicate new grass from its roots. "Garden netting" can be found in garden centres or online at stores such as Amazon or B&Q.
 - b) Install bird feeders away from the newly seeded lawn to attract birds and divert their attention elsewhere. Place some seed on the ground as well for ground-feeding birds like pigeons.
 - c) Scare tactics. Hang reflective materials, like CDs or aluminium foil strips, around the perimeter of your lawn to scare birds off. Motion-activated sprinklers or fake owls can also be highly effective.

Maintaining a beautiful lawn really takes some time and effort, often more than people realise, but if you follow the steps above, you will achieve a thick, healthy and beautiful lawn to enjoy and be proud of.