

Important Information Regarding Care of Newly Seeded and Sodded Lawn Areas

The purpose of this publication is to serve as notice as well as be a resource with some lawn maintenance tips to assist property owners in their responsibility to maintain recently installed sod.

The contractor's lawn maintenance period ends on October 19th. The project's construction observer has inspected the seeded and sodded areas and accepted them on behalf of the City for compliance with the contract. With this, all lawn care and maintenance automatically turns over to the individual property owners, who are responsible to ensure continued growth of sodded areas.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the condition of the sod in your yard, please contact **Dylan Casey at 612.283.7466**

Following are some lawn care strategies that can assist property owners in maintaining their lawns.

- **Watering** – Any additional watering you can provide will only result in a healthier thicker lawn. The root system is not fully established in the first full growing season. Newly restored areas must be watered to ensure growth of the vegetation. Depending on weather conditions, lawns may need to be watered every day.

- **Morning is the best time to water lawn areas...the earlier the better** – As the sun rises, so does the temperature. Heat steals the moisture from your lawn through evaporation. When you water early, more of the water is absorbed into the lawn, requiring less water usage.

- **Watering during the day can actually harm your lawn** – Scalding and burning occurs when hot sunlight hits the water droplets that cling to the lawn. The tiny droplets imitate a magnifying glass, which burns the lawn. At night, the cool, moist conditions create an ideal environment for lawn diseases to develop. Grass blades watered in the morning dry off quickly, making it harder for a disease habitat to flourish.

- **Maintain a healthy lawn** – For most lawn areas, mowing at a height of 3 - 4 inches is recommended. This slightly higher height screens out light to the soil surface, limiting the germination and establishment of weeds such as crabgrass that need light to germinate. A slightly higher cutting height also encourages deeper rooting, allowing moisture and nutrients from a larger soil volume to gather. This gives the grass plants a greater degree of stress tolerance. Avoid mowing during hot weather and never cut more than half the plant off at a time.

- **Lawn Aeration and Overseeding** - Optimal growing conditions for Minnesota are in late summer or early fall. Core aeration and overseeding is recommended following one complete growing season.

- **Seasonal Maintenance** – Seed and fertilize in the fall.



Seed and Sod Maintenance Notification and Lawn Care Strategies

More information on lawn care is available through the University of Minnesota Extension Service. (www.extension.umn.edu)