

## Crane Flies & Grubs



If you see these bugs flying around your yard or on the wall of your house

they are destroying your lawn! People mistake them for Mosquito Eaters which is a hoax.

Below is a Sod Web worm which is equally destructive but much harder to spot.



Use a Season Long Grub Control as per instructions.

## Aeration

Over time your lawn may become very compact due to foot traffic. Fall is the best time to aerate.

## Moss

In the Pacific Northwest, moss can be an ongoing battle. Moss needs the following soil conditions to grow well.

- Compact soil &/or poor drainage
- Acidic Conditions
- Low fertility/nutrients in soil
- Shade

You can treat the moss but unless you fix the preexisting problems the moss will return.

## Lime

Soils in the PNW are naturally acidic. Early spring is the best time to apply **pelletized** lime to your yard, to lower the acidity. For optimum lawn growth, your soil needs to be at PH level of 6.8-7.2, which makes it easier for the root system to absorb the available nutrients. It's called "Sweetening the soil". When you lime less fertilizer is needed, and you will have fewer weeds too!

**Lime is fertilizer company's best kept secret.**

I've seen low maintenance home lawns look as good as the high maintenance yards. The only thing the homeowner did, was apply lime every year; resulting in a lush, green, weed free lawn. Read the instructions on the bag!

You can over lime!



## How to care for your hydroseeding



### **How often should you water?**

Follow up care will be the most important factor in achieving a beautiful lawn quickly.

Grass seed needs to stay continuously moist in order for it to germinate, which can take from 3-14 days depending on the variety of seed and the outdoor temperature.

When deciding on how much to water your hydroseed, you need to also be aware of other environmental factors; wind, shade and soil types. Sandy soil drains quickly and constantly needs to be replenished, while loam soil retains water longer. Also, one side of your hydroseeded area may be in afternoon shade while other parts will be in full sun throughout the day. You will need to adjust your water accordingly.

Do not allow puddles to form in your yard. This causes the seed to float to the top and be pushed to the side... Leaving bare spots.

**Not watering enough is the #1 cause of germination failure.**

## Walking on new hydroseed

If you must walk on your newly hydroseeded lawn, walk as flat as possible and avoid twisting. Try not to walk in the same place twice.

## Fertilizing

Bella Terra uses a slow release fertilizer when hydroseeding lawns. In 4 weeks, you will need to apply another application of lawn starter fertilizer.

A broadcast spreader works best, or you may apply a liquid fertilizer product like Miracle-Gro. A drop spreader is not recommended because it can cause lines (shown below.)



Each soil type retains fertilizers differently. In sandy soil, nutrients dissipate quickly, while clay soil retains the nutrients longer.



Subtle signs indicate it's time to fertilize such as when dark green spots appear in your lawn, or dark green lines begin to show where the sprinkler pipes are underground. The more you fertilize the quicker your lawn grows, although over fertilizing causes grass to burn or become diseased.

*It's up to you to find your perfect balance.*

## When is it time to mow?

When your grass is about 3-3 ½" it will be time to mow. The root system is still very fragile... make sure your lawn mower blades are sharp so the grass is cut rather than pulled out of place. Do not cut off more than 1/3 of the grass height.

Be very careful when you turn corners!

## Weeds in your lawn

Bella Terra lawn seed is 99% weed free. The weeds that actively started growing were in already in the soil. We watered and fertilize them too! After you have mowed at least 4 times, you can apply a post-emergent broadleaf herbicide (broadleaf weed killer). Read the label carefully. Timing is key for the chemical to work properly. The label will give you guidelines on heat, weather conditions and when to water after the application. If the product didn't work it was because the conditions were not right. (You wouldn't paint your house in the rain or when the heat bakes the paint before it has time to penetrate.) Herbicide application is no different. Patience in waiting for correct environmental conditions will make a big difference. Depending on how weedy your soil is, you may have to apply herbicide to the whole area, or walk around and spot spray.

[Careful when loading your fertilizer spreader in your yard. Spilling will cause a lawn burn and create a dead spot for over a year!](#)

## Basic Yearly Maintenance

Once you understand the basics, keeping your lawn happy and healthy isn't a full time job. As the heat of summer rises, you'll need to raise the blades of your lawnmower. Short grass dries out faster and allows weeds to gain control. All of us have seen blooming dandelions in a short stubble brown, dormant yard.

## How often should I water my established lawn?

Each variety of grass seed requires different watering habits. If your lawn is rye grass, it has a short root system, which in turn, requires more water and fertilizer. If your lawn is fescue, it has very deep roots, which will retain water and nutrients for a longer period of time. You want to encourage a deep root system by letting the top layer of soil to dry out between waterings.

During the summer heat, it's best to water 2-3 times a week as compared to watering daily. Also watering in the morning will help prevent fungus growth among other diseases, as well as preventing water loss..

## Fall

This is the most important time of year to keep a healthy lawn. Apply a fall fertilizer and it will, in turn, keep your grass healthy while goes into winter dormancy. The leftover fertilizer will break down the summer thatch, which will in turn feed your grasses root system. Your lawn will be ready for lush growth come spring.