

**MAINTAINING NEWLY SEEDED AREAS
NE DAYTON AREAS 1 – 6 PROJECT
June 2008**

Lawn restoration is one of the final steps in the lengthy street reconstruction process. Naturally, residents want to have a healthy looking lawn, especially with the newly constructed streets. Seeding is the preferred method for restoring turf areas because over time, a stronger, better looking lawn will result. When it comes to seeding, patience is the key to good results along with some basic lawn maintenance. Below are some tips that the city encourages you to do to help accelerate the seeding process.

Tips for Keeping Your New Lawn Healthy.

1. Once seed is planted, make sure that the soil is kept evenly moist. However, slight drying between watering is not detrimental.
2. Minimize foot traffic and play on newly planted lawns, for at least 3 weeks.
3. After the seeds germinate, you can water more heavily but less frequently. It is then important to continue with daily watering (depending on environmental conditions) until the area is mowed twice.
4. Begin mowing newly seeded lawns after the grass has grown to a height of 3 or 4 inches. In your first mowing, just remove enough to give your lawn an even appearance (remove 1/2 to 3/4 inches). Next time, cut to a minimum height of 2 inches.
5. During the grow in time, there may be increased pressure from weeds as they are always present in the soil and can become disturbed during soil prep. If weeds do become a problem, continue to care for the new lawn for 2 to 3 months and then apply a weed killer. It is highly recommended to mow at least 3 times before any herbicide is applied.
6. Reseeding of any larger open areas may be necessary but open areas of ½ square foot or less will fill in naturally.

The presence of weeds will vary from project to project. Weed seeds are naturally found in all types of soil. It also blows in from neighboring yards and vacant lots. When grass seed is given the good conditions for growth, weed seed at the proper depth will have the same opportunity for growth.

The grass seed has many advantages over the weeds so don't be discouraged. Take care of your seeded area as listed above. Mowing will deter weed growth while thickening the grass stand. If weeds are a problem after 2-3 months, spray the weeds with a selective herbicide at the recommended rate.

The contractor will be going around soon and touching up areas where the seed did not take. Once that seed is established, a final evaluation will take place to make sure the seeded areas have been established.

Please direct your questions to either Lance Meyer (651-783-6582) or Paul Perez (651-324-5585).