

Lawns by Carlito's team wants you to have the best-looking lawn possible this season so we have created a guide to help you better understand how to care for your new lawn.

**What to expect:**

With proper watering and ideal weather conditions the seed will germinate in 7-14 days. You will start to see small green spikes that appear in patches all over the lawn and within a few more days you will see the grass start to fill in. Some areas may take longer than others, as the amount of sunlight and water retained within the soil directly effects how fast the seed will germinate. Within about 25-30 days you should see a uniform appearance in the grass.

**Carlito's Motto: NO WATER, NO GRASS!**

**Regular Watering is the key to getting Great Results! Water lightly, but frequently to ensure the ground is kept moist so the seed can germinate properly.** Remember that when establishing new grass you need to take a different approach as compared to watering established grass with longer roots. As the seed just sits on the surface, we don't need to soak the ground down a few inches, but instead just keep the topsoil moist. High temperatures and windy days can cause the ground to dry up faster than normal so watering a few times a day will help during the germination process.

The goal is to keep the top soil moist and avoid seeing hard dry soil, especially avoiding any cracking in the soil. Depending on the weather this may mean you need to water a few times a day or daily until the grass can establish itself. Focus on areas in full sun, and near the road/driveway/sidewalks as these areas will dry out first.

**How long to Water each day?** Everyone's situation is different, so here is what we suggest:

\* On Day 1 water with a sprinkler for 15 minutes, then go out and touch the ground. You are looking for the ground to be moist. If it's not wet yet, go ahead and give it another 5 minutes and check again, keep doing this until you feel the ground is moist.

**Signs you Watered Too Much:** if you see your own foot prints when walking out on the yard to move the hose, water pooling or runoff you have watered too long and should cut back next time. Let it dry out completely and then water less next time.

*\*Note that front yard vs. back yard can vary, as ground hardness, direct sunlight and drainage will change the watering needs. Check each area of the lawn to ensure all areas get enough water.*

**How long do I need to Water New Grass:**

The first 2 weeks of germination are VERY important, and it is recommended at least twice a day to get full germination. If you can only water every other day, make sure all areas are watered well. At the two-week mark, you should start to see new baby grass sprouting up. Remember that this new grass has tiny roots that can't go very deep for water. It can start to wilt easily in the sun and will die off if not feed enough water. Keep watering every other day or every 3 days (depending on weather and soil conditions) for another 2-3 weeks. We consider the grass established after 2 mowing visits and or when the grass looks full and lush. If the grass is skinny and strangely, please keep watering as it needs to continue filling out.



**Seed germination:** Seeds will only germinate when they have enough moisture. If you can't water right away that's fine. The seed will sit and wait for the moisture. Once the seed has been heavily watered and or rained upon, then it is important to keep up the watering as the germination process has begun and continue until the grass is a few inches tall.

**Our Advice:**

- \*Watering with a sprinkler is better than using a garden hose or watering can!
- \*Water lightly and frequently, until established. Once the grass is established, you will do more soaking and less often.
- \*Really focus on watering areas that receive direct sunlight, and cut back on watering the areas in the shade.
- \*A simple sprinkler with an automatic timer saves time and hassle!
- \* You will need to continue watering after the grass is established, but it will depend on the weather and how much rain we are getting.
- \* Always water early in the morning prior to the heat of the day or wait until the evening (after the temperature has cooled down).

**Keep the Kids & Pets off the Lawn until established:**

The new grass is very fragile when it is first coming up and can be easily damaged. We advise to keep foot traffic to a minimum. Baby grass can be especially fragile after a rain, so avoid walking on it if it's wet. You can go out to water the grass and move the sprinkler as needed, but try to keep kids and pets off as they can rip up the grass easily while playing. We consider the grass to be established after 2 mowings. If it still looks pretty thin and weak, then you might want to give it a little longer.

If wheat straw has been applied, it can stay on the grass and will naturally compost.

**HAVE ANY CONCERNS?**

If you are concerned about a certain area, or not seeing the results you had hoped, please contact us after the 14 day germination period. We will schedule a time to come out and have a look and see what is needed. **If any areas need to be retouched we will advise and re-seed any bare spots, but we need to hear from you in time. Contact us within 30 days if you have any concerns.**

Contact us:

Call us at (919) 937-3250 or email: [service@lawnsbycarlito.com](mailto:service@lawnsbycarlito.com)

Thank you for your business,

*Carlito & Alysia*