



Aeration and Seeding Frequently Asked Questions

OK, the crew just left. When should I see results?

The ryegrass in the seed mixture will germinate in 7 to 10 days, but the bluegrass will not germinate for almost 30 days. After germination, the new seedlings are very tiny, almost too small to see, and it will take quite some time for the new plant to grow to maturity. You can expect to see results as we approach the end of the growing season – October any beyond – but remember that this is an investment in your lawn that you will reap over a long period of time.

Can I walk on it?

Absolutely, you can walk on it right away and continue to do so even as the seed germinates. Grass is a lot tougher than you think. Obviously, don't invite the neighborhood rugby team to come over and practice on the lawn, but casual use is just fine.

How about mowing, do I have to do anything different?

We would highly recommend taking this opportunity to sharpen your blade, or replace the blade all together. This is an important key to good turfgrass management in any case, but with new seedlings it is even more important. If possible, wait 2 weeks before first cut.

Height should be raised to the maximum allowed by your mower. This will help to shield the new seedlings from the harshness of the elements while it is very young. Having a consistently tall mowing height is also good practice to develop a robust root system and to keep weeds to a minimum, too.

Frequency of cut is very important. The lawn will most definitely respond to how often you cut. The rule of thumb is to never remove more than 1/3 of the height of the cut – for instance, if the lawn is 3" tall, we would not want you to take it below 2" at any one cutting – which under normal circumstance is once per week. The seedlings should not be the prime consideration with the frequency of cut. You should maintain this frequency of cut even if you do not take off very much material. Allow the new seedlings to grow up to the established height of cut.

It needs to be watered, right?

Yes, *the new seedlings should not be allowed to dry out at any time*. Every lawn is different – some are already pretty thick, some are really thin, some are in full sun, some are in the shade – there is no way to give a blanket watering recommendation for all conditions.

We have Mother Nature on our side in the fall, though. Most every morning there is a good heavy dew – that counts as some water. We normally do not go too long between showers this time of year either.

Suffice it to say that if you should watch the lawn pretty carefully in the first few weeks and if you haven't observed any rainfall and you do not have an irrigation system then you should be breaking out the sprinklers. This is the time to put in the extra effort – it will pay big dividends!

What are those round things on top of the lawn?

Those are the cores from the aeration process. This is normal, actually it is really beneficial! Allow them to dry and deteriorate on their own. The soil will redeposit on the surface of the lawn and the thatch portion of the core will either get picked up by your mower or decompose on its own.

I see some weeds in my lawn. What can be done about that?

Weed control always have a trade off, even with mature turfgrasses. If there are annual weeds such as crabgrass in the lawn, we just leave them alone. Crabgrass is going to die soon anyway and to treat for it will compromise the health of the seedlings.

Broadleaf weed control will harm the new seed. Once the new seedlings have matured we can apply weed control and clear the lawn of any remaining weeds. This usually occurs after three mowings.

**If you have any further questions, please email us at Support@missiongreenservices.com
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