

For best results, set the mower height to at least 3 to 4 inches and mow often. Try not to cut more than a third of the blade at a time.

Keep mower blades sharp for the cleanest cut. Lawns cut with dull blades lose moisture more rapidly, are more subject to disease, and take on a lighter, almost grayish cast. This comes from the shredded ends of the grass blades drying out and turning a pale brown in the sun.

### 3. Fertilize

#### ***Feed your lawn to keep it healthy!***

We suggest that you fertilize with a slow release fertilizer about three times per year. Your typical fertilization schedule should look something like this:

- **Memorial Day.** Use a “triple 16” fertilizer.
- **Labor Day.** Same as Memorial Day.
- **Just before winter hits.** Use a “winterizer fertilizer” (high in nitrogen).

Fertilization prior to Memorial Day is not recommended. It has been shown to enhance fungal disease during summer.

### 4. Weed

#### ***Stop native weeds from going to seed to keep them under control!***

Homeowners are likely to see *pigweed* in lawns, flowerbeds, and gardens. Pigweed is native to this area, and the seeds lie dormant for many years. Once disturbed,

the seed will sprout in whatever soil is provided. The most important thing any homeowner can do in fighting pigweed is to stop it from going to seed – either by early pulling, hoeing, or mowing.

Homeowners should take a few minutes each week to pull young pigweed sprouts from flowerbeds and garden areas, just as all gardeners have to do for new beds – no matter what the soil source. We recommend regular mowing (once the new grass blades have reached several inches in height). This will prevent any sprouted pigweed from going to seed. As the lawn matures, the pigweed will be choked out.

*A little effort early in the growing process will save many hours of labor and spraying costs later on. We appreciate your cooperation on controlling weeds in your remediated areas.*



**If you have questions about the cleanup, replacement soils, or plants, contact your CIC at**

**For other yard or garden questions please contact your local garden/nursery store or the Montana State University Extension Office. Or, check out their very useful website:**

**[www.extn.msu.montana.edu/yard.asp](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu/yard.asp)**

*CDM November 2007*

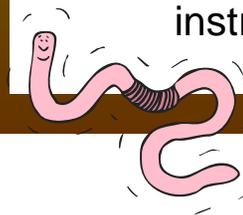
## Caring for Your New Lawn

### Congratulations!

Your new Hydroseed lawn is made of some of the finest varieties of grass available – chosen specifically for this area.

With your help, we are confident that this lawn will be beautiful and enjoyable for years to come.

Like any lawn, the care your new Hydroseed lawn receives from you will determine the degree of success you enjoy. To help ensure great results, we've provided you with these instructions.



## Why Hydroseed?

All lawns removed by EPA will now be replaced using Hydroseed. Hydroseed is a patented product that contains seed, mulch, and fertilizer and is sprayed directly onto bare areas.

Hydroseed is a proven performer in Libby and elsewhere, producing robust and healthy lawns in variety of conditions in a short period of time. Because it can be applied immediately after soil is placed, residents can have a lawn in less time than with sod (which must be ordered, cut, and delivered). When they mature, seeded lawns are also more resistant to pests and weather than sod, as they are grown in place from a seed mix specially selected for the Libby area.

In addition to these benefits, Hydroseed is significantly less costly than sod, *especially* on large lawns. Money saved on lawn replacement can be put to good use on other aspects of the project – such as cleaning up more properties. This allows us to get the most out of every budget dollar.

Following the care instructions in this pamphlet should ensure a healthy lawn. Your CIC will be happy to answer any other questions you might have on Hydroseed or any other aspects of your restoration.

## The first two days....

The landscaper will soak the area until soggy immediately before the hydroseed is applied. After this initial soaking, the crew will water lightly each of the next two business days to keep the material moist.

Please note that, if your lawn is installed on a Thursday or Friday, the contractors will not be available and *YOU will need to water over the weekend*. Remember to water lightly to keep the lawn moist, *but not soggy*.

## Happily ever after....

The following tips for watering, mowing, and fertilizing will help keep **YOUR** new lawn looking great.

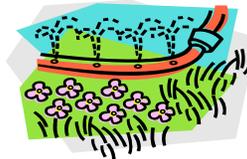
### 1. Water

***In the beginning, keep your lawn moist - not soggy!***



Initially, apply an average of one inch of water **daily**. An easy way to measure this is to put a *small* tuna can on your lawn – when it's full, you've watered one inch. For hydroseed, you may need to decrease the duration and increase the times per day to prevent excess water from washing the seed away. Try watering twice daily for 15 to 20 minutes, until you can see the grass growing. Remember this is a guideline. Your lawn may need more or less to keep it consistently moist.

You may need to increase the number of times you water due to hot weather, wind, season, and proximity to buildings (reflected heat dries the lawn). Less water is needed during cold or rainy periods. Shady areas may develop “powder mildew” if there is not enough sunshine or heat to dry the blades.



If this happens, water during sunnier times of the day, or decrease water.

***Taper off to one inch/ week after the lawn is established.***

Once the Hydroseed has begun to grow (usually 2 weeks), you can gradually increase the duration and decrease the frequency of your watering until you are watering only one to two times a week. Your grass will develop a deeper root system if, over the first growing season, you move to watering weekly for 1 to 2 hours or longer.

New lawns can dry out very quickly in sunny, windy weather. ***Until roots are established, it is critical that your new lawn stays moist.*** As long as this happens, your results should be excellent.

Your new lawn will lay dormant through winter, but it is important that you keep it moist until the ground freezes. Once it freezes, you can stop watering until spring. When the snow melts and the frost leaves the ground, you will need to start watering again. PLEASE DO NOT count on spring rains to water your new lawn. It often takes at least a year of *quality care* for your new lawn to become well established.

### 2. Mow

***Regular trims keep your lawn looking great!***



Don't mow for the first time until the grass is about 4 inches high. Leave the clippings on as mulch, but don't cut off more than an inch at a time or the mulch could clump and cause patches of the lawn to die.