

Weeding

Don't let native and invasive weed species take over your new lawn

You should take a few minutes each week to hand pull young weeds from your new lawn, flowerbeds or garden. Don't use herbicides or weed killers on your new lawn. You may end up with a splotchy lawn that you will have to reseed.

Controlling the spread of native and invasive weeds early in your lawn's maturity will save you time and money in the long run.

Follow-ups

During the first year after the removal process, project personnel will be periodically stopping by to follow up on the progress of your new yard.

Libby Asbestos Superfund Site



Your newly seeded lawn contains a variety of turf grass available specifically for the Libby/Troy climate.

To ensure great results, we're offering these helpful tips.

The care it receives from you NOW will determine the degree of success you experience in years to come. With your help, we are confident that you will soon have a lawn that is lush and healthy.

During this first growing season, the lawn will develop a deeper root system if you follow this process.

Increase the frequency you water during periods of hot or windy weather. Keep in mind that lawn areas exposed to sunlight in close proximity to buildings tend to dry out quicker. Decrease the watering frequency in shady areas to avoid moss or mildew, which occurs where there is not enough sunshine or heat to dry the grass.

During the first growing season

Make sure someone will properly water your lawn if you are away for longer than your watering schedule calls for.

If your lawn is seeded in the fall, it will lay dormant through the 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. Do not count on spring rains to water your new lawn.

Mowing

Regular mowing keeps your lawn looking neat and growing thick.

Don't mow for the first time until the grass is greater than 4-inches high. For best results, set the mower height to at least 3-inches and mow often. Consider purchasing a mulching blade and 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 is caused by the shredded ends of the grass blades drying out and turning a pale brown in the sun.

Watering

Until grass roots are established, it is important that your new lawn stay moist, not wet. Don't let the lawn dry out. It often takes at least one full year of quality care for a lawn to become well established, but the first weeks are critical.

The landscaper will apply the hydroseed mix after broadcast seeding is complete. As the mix dries out (1 to 2 days), it will turn brownish. At this time, you will begin your watering schedule.

Water 15 to 20 minutes twice daily (preferably morning and evening, not in the heat of the day) until you see grass growing. Use a sprinkler that waters lightly to ensure that you are not disturbing the seed/mulch mix and to avoid ponding.

After two weeks, when you see new grass, you should start to water for longer periods of time and only two to three times a week. Eventually, you will be watering once a week for 1 to 2 hours or longer in the morning hours.

*****Please Note: For new lawns seeded the previous year, this first fertilizer application is essential for promoting new root growth and should be applied no later than April 15th. Fertilizing this way will reduce moisture stress on your new seedlings during the higher temperatures of late spring and summer days.**

Fertilizing

Feed your lawn to keep it healthy!

30 to 45 days after emergence of grass***

Your new lawn was fertilized at the time of seeding. We suggest that you fertilize again within 30 to 45 days after emergence applying a fertilizer such as a 20-10-10-10 at a rate of 10 pounds per 1000 ft². An application of a "weed and feed" type fertilizer or a slow release based fertilizer is **not** recommended until your lawn is well-established* This could be twelve to eighteen months after the first seeding. Once your lawn is established, your annual fertilization schedule should look something like this:

Early spring – March 1st to April 15th

The first application of fertilizer should not be slow release based and should contain sulfur to help reduce the incidence of fungal diseases. We recommend a balanced nutrition fertilizer with at least 18–20% nitrogen and 5% sulfate. Rates will vary—please refer to the label on the fertilizer container. Organic fertilizers, are good choices if you prefer non-chemical solutions.

Early summer – Memorial Day to June 15th

We recommend that you apply a slow release fertilizer containing at least 24% nitrogen and 5% sulfur at a rate based on manufacture recommendations.

Questions...?

If you have questions or concerns at any stage of the removal/restoration process, please don't hesitate to call us!

Your **Community Involvement Coordinator**

406-293-3690

or

EPA Information Center

108 E. 9th Street

Libby, MT 59923

406-293-6194

Please remember to water and fertilize your yard!

To ensure positive results it is essential to water and fertilize your new yard to at least the minimum listed in this brochure.

Early fall & pre-dormancy – Labor Day & end of October

Apply a fertilizer containing higher amount of phosphate and potash, such as a triple sixteen (16-16-16-7S) at 7-10 pounds per 1000 ft². Apply a heavier rate around the end of October, about 10-12 pounds per 1000 ft².

*How to tell if your lawn is well-established

For well established lawns approximately 3 years post restoration with weed problems, now is the time to use a “weed and feed” type fertilizer.

- No bare spots are observed and mowing occurs at least once a week
- When you walk on the grass it feels sponge- or carper-like.

All areas remediated by the EPA will be reseeded using a seed mixture, taking into consideration your land use and lawn maintenance requirements. See the other side of this brochure for the seed mixes offered.

The reseeding procedure combines broadcast seeding and hydro seeding. Hydroseed contains seed, paper mulch and water, and is sprayed directly onto carefully prepared soil. With proper care, a lawn seeded this way can be robust and healthy in a short period of time and will be resistant to pests and adverse weather.

AVAILABLE SEED MIXES

Playground Mix



Maintenance Effort: High

Use Recommendations:

For larger areas where a nice lawn is desired, but will not be watered regularly once established.

Seed Ratio*:

- 48% Perennial Ryegrass
- 27% Creeping Red Fescue
- 25% Kentucky Bluegrass

Initial Care: (first growing season)

Seed only in the spring and fall; water as necessary to keep moist until germination. If spring seeded, keep moist throughout first growing season for best results.

Long-term Care : (one year from establishment)

Requires regular fertilizing; will go dormant (brown) through the heat of the summer; will stay green if watered regularly. Low level of weed control.

Pasture Mix



Maintenance Effort: Medium

Use Recommendations:

For areas that will be used for grazing and foraging livestock; can also be used in outlying areas that will not be maintained.

Seed Ratio*:

- 38% Orchard Grass
- 30% Climax Timothy
- 15% Perennial Ryegrass
- 17% Smooth Brome Grass

Initial Care: (first growing season)

Water as necessary to keep moist until germination. Water during first growing season for best results.

Long-term Care: (one year from establishment)

Requires regular water and fertilizer (less than lawn) for lush growth. Low level of weed control.

Wildflower Mix



Maintenance Effort: Easy

Use Recommendations:

For areas that will not be mowed or maintained after the area is established. This mix can be toxic to livestock.

Seed Ratio*:

- 25% Hard or Sheep Fescue
- 20% Sandberg (Canby) Bluegrass
- 15% Prairie Junegrass
- 5% Lewis Blue Flax
- 35% Montana Wildflower mix

Initial Care: (first growing season)

Should only be seeded before the onset of winter. If spring seeded, keep soil moist throughout first growing season for best results.

Long-term Care: (one year from establishment)

Will not require any maintenance. Low level of weed control.

Kootenai National Forest Mix



Maintenance Effort: Easy

Use Recommendations:

For areas that are a buffer between forest and lawn and/or low maintenance areas; does not need to be maintained once the grass is established.

Seed Ratio*:

- 50% Annual Ryegrass
- 24% Hard or Sheep Fescue
- 26% Orchardgrass

Initial Care: (first growing season)

Water as necessary to keep moist until germination. If spring seeded, keep soil moist throughout first growing season for best results.

Long-term Care: (one year from establishment)

Little or no maintenance is required. For best results, fertilize once per year in the spring. Low level of weed control.

*Seed varieties may be adjusted based on recommendations from the seed specialist.