

New lawns need special care. The first year is a time when roots need to establish and your lawn needs lots of attention. Consistent watering is important to keep grass moist during this time of growth.

1. Keep off grass

- Tread lightly.
- Keep pets off the grass as much as possible during the first year.
- Pick up pet waste and water over where pets pee to dilute urine on the new lawn.
- Dog waste can be highly acidic and it will damage your lawn, leaving dead spots behind if left.



2. Water your new lawn and plants from May to October

- The best time to water is early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Water when “dew” usually appears naturally.
- New lawns need one inch of water per week.
- Lay soaker hoses or drip lines on new plants and shrubs. You will use less water and plants will be healthier, with fewer weeds or diseases.
- Do not allow your new lawn to dry out. Lawns can go un-watered once they are established.



3. Fertilize your lawn

- Use “natural organic” or “slow release” fertilizers.
- It is best to put down fertilizers in smaller, more frequent applications. More is not better.
- The best time to fertilize is in the fall and summer.
- Apply fertilizer evenly to prevent your lawn from developing “bands” of different colors.
- Top dress with compost and over-seed annually, for a full, lush lawn.



4. Mow high and let clippings lie

- Leave lawn at least 2-3 inches high. This will help protect your lawn from drought, reduce chances of weed invasion and help to establish a healthy root system.
- Leave lawn clippings on your lawn to recycle nutrients. Shorter clippings decompose quickly if left on the lawn.
- Mow consistently and when grass is dry.



Check out the Natural Lawn Care Videos for tips and tricks on natural lawn care: <http://www.naturallyardcare.org/library.aspx>

Seasonal Tips

Your new lawn requires care all year long! Follow these tips to adapt your care to each season of the year.

Spring: Protect against weeds

Start weeding your lawn now to get a head start on weeds. Replenish any mulched beds or areas with a fresh layer of mulch.



Fall: Rake the leaves often

Rake the leaves off your lawn to allow the new grass to breathe and get sunlight.



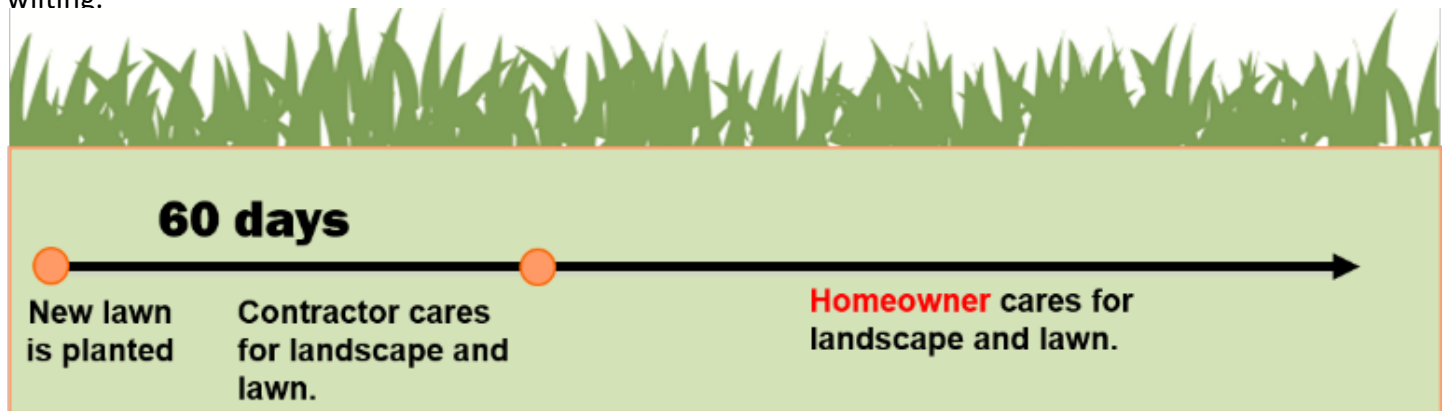
Summer: Water one inch per week

Do not let your lawn dry out its first summer. During a hot summer, lawns need a minimum of one inch of water per week. Plants may need less but watch for signs of wilting.



Winter: Keep off the grass

Using a lawn before it is established, can damage or kill it. Tread lightly and pick up pet waste. Do not walk on the grass when it is frosted over or frozen.



Call Ecology if you see any of the following:

360-407-7688, press 2 for Tacoma Smelter Plume

Puddles on grass

Check for puddles that last more than 48 hours after a large rain event.



Soft or settled soil

After winter rains, check for settled or uneven soil that is softer than the rest of the yard.



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6790 or email at justin.zakoren@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.