

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’ll use less water and plants will be healthier, with fewer weeds or diseases.
- Don’t 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.
- Fertilizers are best put down 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.



2-3 inches

Check out the Natural Lawn Care Videos for tips and tricks on natural lawn care: <http://www.naturallawn.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.



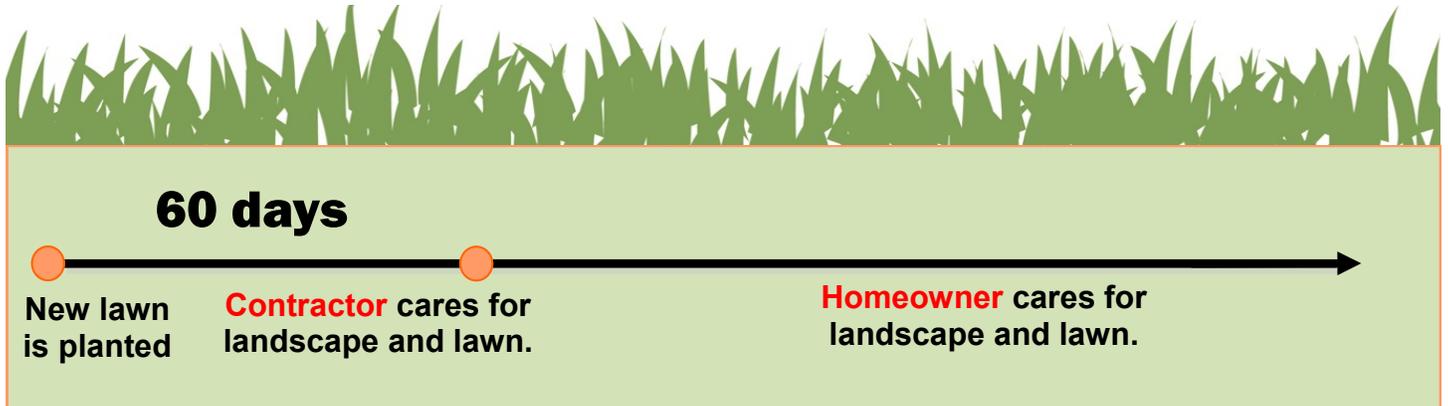
### Summer: Water one inch per week.

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



### Winter: Keep off 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 materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>, call Ecology at 360-407-6790, Relay Service 711, or TTY (877) 833-6341.

FSID # 89267963 CSID # 3657

