

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Hydroseeding**

### **What is Hydroseeding?**

Hydro seeding is the simple procedure of applying grass seed, fertilizer, hydromulch, Tackifier (for erosion control) and water in one liquefied application. Various soil amendments and soil stabilizers may also be used in the mixture depending on the needs of the environment.

### **How much does hydroseeding cost?**

Hydroseeding prices will vary greatly across Massachusetts. Conditions such as grass type, soil additives and extreme climates are some of the factors that will affect the price. Hydroseeding jobs are commonly priced by the square footage of the area to be seeded and can range from 6-cents/sq. ft. to 15-cents/sq. ft. throughout the Northeast.

### **What type of grass seed is used in hydroseeding?**

Most any type of grass seed can be used in hydro seeding. Climate conditions will often determine which grass type is recommended. A quick visit to your property by a Better lawns employee can tell you which turf seeds flourish best in your settings.

### **Why is the green color gone from my hydroseeded lawn?**

The green dye that was present during the initial application will fade and disappear in as few as 2 days in some cases or it may last weeks. The colorant has no bearing on the quality of the hydroseed or the impression that the hydroseeded lawn has washed away.

### **How much should I water my hydroseeded lawn?**

Initially water is essential to the development of a strong root system in your hydroseeded lawn. Newly hydroseeded lawns should be watered as much as 2-3 times a day for the first several weeks. Special care should be taken to ensure that the lawn is NOT saturated during watering and puddles DO NOT form on the lawn. An irrigation system or handheld garden hose is often the best method of watering your lawn. The goal is to have a consistently moist area for the best germination results.

### **When should I fertilize my hydroseeded lawn?**

This will often vary depending on the type of grass seed used, condition of the soil and recommended fertilizer types for your climate. A common practice we use at Better Lawns is to apply a nitrogen rich fertilizer soon after the first mowing has been done. Weeks 4-6 are common fertilizing times. When in doubt, an Expert applicator from Better Lawns should be consulted as improper fertilization could cause severe damage to your lawn.

### **Can I walk on the hydroseed once it is applied?**

Heavy traffic on a newly seeded lawn can permanently damage the new grass and should be avoided as much as possible. Walking on a freshly hydroseeded lawn can leave depressions in the lawn and in some cases cause bare spots to form.

### **How soon will I have grass?**

Hydroseeded lawns will often begin to germinate in as little as 5-7 days. Most grass types will take between 3-4 weeks to fill in and depending on how often the lawn is watered, and the type of grass seed used. It can take as much as 8 weeks to see strong growth.

### **When should I first mow my hydroseeded lawn?**

As a general rule of thumb, the first mowing is recommended once the lawn reaches 3-4 inches in height. The 1/3rd rule is a good guideline. Never remove more than 1/3rd of the grass blade at one time.

### **Do I need any special equipment to mow my hydroseeded lawn?**

No. The most important item you can have when mowing your new lawn is a very sharp mower blade. Try to avoid sharp turns when mowing a fresh lawn so as to avoid tearing the grass out with your tires.

### **Is hydroseeding guaranteed?**

At Better Lawns & Landscapes we stand by our work. Incidents such as torrential rains, hurricanes or acts of nature are beyond our control and generally not covered. A common problem in the development of a new lawn is neglect. Not watering the property sufficiently will cause the yard to appear spotty and incomplete.

### **Is hydroseeding better than sod?**

Sod will give you a picture perfect lawn in as little as one day. Hydroseeding may take a few weeks to see your lawn fully develop. Hydroseeding is also 60%-75% less expensive than the costly application of sod. Aftercare and attention to your investment will ultimately determine what your results are with either choice.

### **Do hydroseeders have to have a license to hydroseed?**

Some states do require licensure of certain types to apply some of the additives in the hydroseeding mixture. It is always best to check with your state agricultural board to determine the specific requirements in your area.

### **Can I apply weed-kill to my hydroseeded lawn?**

Strong chemicals such as pesticides or weed-killers should be avoided until your lawn is well established. A common practice is to wait at least 3 months before any pesticides are used on your new lawn as some chemicals may hinder your lawn's full growth potential.

### **Do I need to have a soil test done before hydroseeding?**

A soil test is an important tool in evaluating your soil's requirements. At Better Lawns we often perform a soil test ourselves to determine exactly what nutrients are lacking in your soil.

### **Where can I find a reputable hydroseeding contractor?**

At Better Lawns & Landscapes, we adhere to the Business practices recommended by the Better Business Bureau and we have never had a complaint filed against our company. Additionally, Professional references will gladly be provided upon request.

### **Can a hydroseeder spray something other than grass seed?**

Absolutely. We often spray wildflower mixtures, horse pasture mixes and much more.

### **What's the best time of year to have my lawn hydroseeded?**

This will depend greatly on your climate. Traditionally the spring and fall months are the most conducive to growing any type of vegetation.

**Do I need to have new soil brought in before I hydroseed my yard?**

A soil sample will tell exactly what the health of your soil is and how conducive the area is to grow grass. Additional soil is sometimes required if the existing soil is sterile or is nutritionally deficient beyond reasonable control.

**I see green stains on my foundation and my walkway after my yard was hydroseeded. Will it go away?**

Yes. The green dye that may have splashed onto your foundation or walkways will usually fade away within a few days and can be hosed off with a garden hose.