



HYDROSEEDING - PREPARATION & AFTERCARE GUIDE

Hydroseeding can be a cost-efficient method to establish vegetation. Proper preparation before and care following your hydroseeding application will increase the chances of successfully establishing vegetation.

Prepare the area

Different applications require different preparation, specific preparation instructions will be provided within a quote, however, in general the area must be free of large stones, rocks, debris, voids, weeds and standing water. If it is a lawn application, topsoil to a depth of 200mm-250mm will be required to develop a rough grade. Fill in low spots and ensure proper drainage away from your home and buildings. If your soil is compacted, you will need to work it over with a tiller. In compacted soil the pore space between soil particles is too narrow and impedes the movement of air, water, and nutrients.

Complete a Soil Analysis

If necessary, examine the soil and consider completing a soil analysis. Soil is made up of sand, silt, and clay. Sandy soil allows air and water to move freely but tend to dry out quickly. Clay soils transfer air and water slowly and can starve the roots of new grass. Enhance sandy and clay soils by adding organic matter, or compost. HBB can also recommend soil amendments and pH adjusters based on the soil analysis.

Amend the soil if necessary

Depending on the soil analysis and if a lawn application, spread 25mm - 50mm of organic matter on top of the rough grade and till into the topsoil, then establish the finished grade. Use a rake or harrows to even out the surface as well as you can. The soil should not be compacted nor excessively loose. Contact us at this point to finalize the details of your hydroseed application.

Following your Application

Allow your new hydroseed application to dry for 24 hours. This drying period allows the tackifier in the mulch to adhere to the soil / subgrade. To ensure optimal results, avoid walking or driving on the newly seeded area and compacting the soil or disturbing the seed.

As the hydroseed application dries out, the colour will change from green to brown, this is normal.

After 24 hrs begin watering schedule immediately. It is important that you take extra care of your newly hydroseeded area by keeping the area moist.

Watering Schedule

The new seed needs to be kept constantly moist but not soggy wet. If the seed dries out after it has sprouted, it will die out. Watering requirements can vary depending on irrigation system design, application area size, weather, time of year, soil type and topography.

For the first few weeks, the best results are achieved by watering frequently for shorter periods of time. Remember to keep the area moist. A lighter tone of green, or brown colour indicates drier areas. Please remember a high concentration of water at one time and location can displace seed and mulch.

Maintenance

Ongoing Watering

Ongoing watering may be required, depending upon application, seed type and weather conditions.

Cutting

Cutting requirements will vary upon application and seed type. Cutting is not recommended during the establishment period. For lawn applications, mow your lawn as soon as it reaches a height of 90mm. When mowing use the 1/3 rule, only remove the top 1/3 of the grass blade. Mow frequently and keep your blades sharp. Mowing encourages the formation of tillers (branching out at the base of the plant). Increased tillering means your lawn fills in more quickly.

Fertilizing

Fertilizing requirements will vary upon application and seed type. For lawn applications, it is important to fertilize your newly hydroseeded lawn to encourage healthy establishment of juvenile grass plants. In 3 to 4 weeks, or when the grass is at least 50mm high, use a broadcast spreader and apply a balanced, granular fertilizer.

Weed Control

Even on well-prepared areas, it is not uncommon for weeds to appear within newly hydroseeded areas. Most of these will be annual weeds and are present in the soil. It's likely they will remain until the Autumn; at which time their life cycle will come to an end. For invasive species, pests / diseases, please consult with an appropriate professional to discuss cause and treatment plan. For lawn applications, Do NOT use a Weed and Feed or any Weed Killer until you have mowed the lawn at least 5 times.