



101 Beltline Dr. • Beaver Dam, WI 53916 • Kbtreeandlawn.com

Caring for your New Lawn

Sodding or Seeding a New Lawn

There are two good options available to you when installing a new lawn at your home or business: seeding or sodding. Although a sodded lawn provides instant gratification, a sodded lawn is generally more susceptible to turf disease, insect damage, and drought problems. **Seeded lawns can take up to 2 years to fill in fully, but are recommended by K&B over sodding for the reasons outlined above.** We believe that the results you will see in the long run outweigh the extra initial work and *patience* required to attain desirable results.

Watering Your New Lawn

Both sodded and seeded lawns require frequent watering to become established. Seeded lawns need to remain damp, but not wet enough to puddle, until all of the seeds have germinated (about 4-6 weeks) in summer. After this time, the lawn will need approximately one inch of water per week and the soil should be watered to a depth of 6" to ensure deep root growth. Sod needs to be kept constantly wet to allow for good root to soil contact. Water this way until the first mowing of the sod. A good test to see if the sod is wet enough is to lift several corners around the yard and see if the subsoil is moist. **Watering should be done early in the morning or late in the afternoon.**

How do I keep my lawn looking its best?

A program of regular fertilizing, watering when necessary and proper mowing, will keep your lawn healthy and green. Overseeding every 3 to 5 years with a high quality grass seed mix may also be a good idea. New cultivars of seed continue to become available that tolerate disease and environmental stressors better.

Establish a Fertilizer Program for your Lawn By treating your lawn 3-5 times a season, you'll have better control of weeds and create a thicker, lusher lawn surface.

Control Weeds

The best way to avoid weed problems is to keep the lawn healthy. A thick, vigorous lawn will choke out most weed seedlings. A small infestation of weeds can be controlled by hand pulling, but make sure to remove as much of the root

system as possible. If weeds are a big problem, a herbicide may be necessary. Make sure to read the label thoroughly to avoid causing harm to the lawn, pets, or children, or call K&B for a free estimate.

Mow Properly

When grass grows to a height of 3" to 3 1/2" tall and the ground is firm and dry, it is ready to be mowed for the first time. Be sure the ground is firm and dry, it is ready to be mowed for the first time. Be sure mower blades are sharp and never remove more than 1/3 of the total grass height, as this will stress the lawn out. It is also important to continue to supply the lawn with 1" of water a week either from irrigation or rain, and in the form of 2 applications rather than several light sprinklings. Once established, a lawn should be mowed to a height no lower than 3" and under normal weather conditions, mowed every 7 to 10 hours.

Should I be concerned about dethatching and aerating my lawn?

If you are taking good care of your lawn but it still does not look healthy, you may have a problem with thatch build-up or soil compaction. Thatch is a layer of dead grass and other plant debris that builds up on the soil surface at the base of the grass. It does not decompose and when it builds up to over 1/2" thick, it forms a mat that prevents water and fertilizer from filtering into the soil and reaching the root zone. If the grass in your lawn is yellow or pale green and the soil feels hard and rough, the soil is probably compacted. This condition deprives the plants' roots of oxygen, weakening them so they are unable to absorb the water and nutrients for growth. An annual fall aeration will help reduce this thatch layer and promote better rooting and overall establishment. Overseeding after aeration is recommended. The seed will fall into holes left by the aerator and easily germinate. If a lawn is overseeded in the spring, no herbicides should be applied, especially crabgrass control. They will inhibit the germination of new grass seed.

Dethatching can be done every 2 or 3 years. Spring or fall are the best times, from early April through the end of May and from mid August through the end of September.