

- **Aerate/Dethatch** - Optimal growing conditions for Minnesota are in late summer or early fall. Aerate the lawn twice each season, but most importantly in the fall. Dethatch the lawn in the fall if a condition of organic build up from grass clippings and leaves exists.

- **Seasonal Maintenance** – Seed and fertilize in the fall.

More information on lawn care is available through the University of Minnesota Extension Service. ([www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu))

City staff is also available to answer questions and respond to issues associated with lawn care maintenance at 763-784-5898.



Seed/Sod  
Maintenance

This information is being provided to you by WSB & Associates, Inc. and the City of Circle Pines. This publication shall serve as a resource with respect to boulevard restoration associated with seasonal construction. Outlined within are the requirements for construction restoration, and a few lawn maintenance tips to assist property owners after construction.

Prior to completion of any construction project, the contractor is responsible to restore the areas that have been disturbed as a result of construction. Final restoration is typically in the form of seed and mulch, or sod. As required in the construction contract, the contractor is responsible for providing the necessary turf maintenance to optimize growth of the seed or sod for the first 30 days. The contractor is also responsible for replacing dead sod between the time of installation and the first 30 days. Soil tests are performed on the imported and existing soils prior to the seed or sod application. The project's construction observer will inspect the restoration areas for compliance with the contract. Restoration issues will be addressed prior to the 30-day maintenance period. After the required 30-day maintenance period expires, a notice will be sent to the affected property owners.

Maintenance of the turf will then be turned over to the property owner. At this point, individual property owners are responsible for providing the necessary maintenance to ensure growth of the seed or sod.

In cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, WSB & Associates, Inc. and the City have developed some lawn care strategies that can assist property owners in maintaining their lawns to ensure seed or sod growth. Described below are a few of these strategies:

- **Watering** – Depending on weather conditions, seed and sod must be watered every day. The root systems for both applications are not fully established in the first 30 days. Newly restored areas must be watered to ensure growth of the vegetation.
- **Morning is the best time to water lawn areas...the earlier the better** - As the sun rises, so does the temperature. Heat steals the moisture from your lawn through evaporation. When you water early, more of the water is absorbed into the lawn, requiring less water usage.

- **Watering during the day can actually harm your lawn** – Scalding and burning occurs when hot sunlight hits the water droplets that cling to the lawn. The tiny droplets imitate a magnifying glass, which burns the lawn. At night, the cool, moist conditions create an ideal environment for lawn diseases to develop. Grass blades watered in the morning dry off quickly, making it harder for a disease habitat to flourish.

- **Maintain a healthy lawn** – For most lawn areas, mowing at a height of 2 to 3 inches is recommended. This slightly higher height screens out light to the soil surface, limiting the germination and establishment of weeds such as crabgrass that need light to germinate. A slightly higher cutting height also encourages deeper rooting, allowing moisture and nutrients from a larger soil volume to gather. This gives the grass plants a greater degree of stress tolerance. Avoid mowing during hot weather and never cut more than half the plant off at a time. It is also recommended to wait a minimum of four weeks after the sod was first placed before mowing for the first time.