

# Country Green

T U R F F A R M S

7725 Yelm Hwy, SE; Olympia, WA 98513

## SOD, SEED, OR HYDROSEED?

*Properly Established and maintained lawns are a lifetime investment, adding to the value of the property. It's safe, clean and enjoyable use and even a benefit to the environment as the tightly inter-woven plants of a mature lawn clean the air by releasing oxygen as it uses carbon dioxide, traps particulate pollution and cleanses runoff water that helps restore our groundwater supplies.*

*Making the wrong decisions when you lawn is established will cost you time, energy, money and natural resources.*

*Making the right decisions when you lawn is established will give you a beautiful, usable and enjoyable investment.*

### **Self-Scoring Method:**

Listed in the box on back are a number of important elements to consider in establishing a lawn for home, commercial or recreational use. Following each element is a description or particular characteristic for seeded, hydroseeded or sodded lawn establishment. Differences between seed and hydroseeded areas are noted where appropriate.

*To complete the process on back, review each element and the descriptions, which follow for seed, hydroseed and sod. Based upon the importance you give each element, mark a single box score for one method of lawn establishment.*

*Example:* "Time of Year" is critical to you because of seasonal weather extremes. Because sodding's characteristic is most advantageous to your needs, you would mark the number 3 and go to the next question. Seeding or hydroseeding would not receive any score.

*Total all scores after you have reviewed and marked each question. The highest point total will indicate the lawn establishment method that best suits your overall needs.*

## Self-Scoring Method: How To Establish Your Lawn

FACTORS TO CONSIDER	SEED	HYDROSEED	TURFGRASS SOD
<b>Time of Year to Install</b>	Not recommended for Winter or Summer, possible in Spring, best in Fall for most areas. 1 / 2 / 3	1 / 2 / 3	Year-round installation, even on frozen ground if sod is available. 1 / 2 / 3
<b>Soil Preparation</b>	Same for all types of lawn installation: Deeply till soil, add necessary amendments and fertilizers, grade and level for smooth surface, remove all debris, lightly pack and moisten. 1 / 2 / 3		
<b>Water Requirements</b>	Highest water needs — Bare soil will dry quickly.  Water lightly for 3 to 4 weeks, keeping surface moist, begin to apply 1-inch of water per week after first mowing. 1 / 2 / 3	Moderate to high water needs. Mulch will preserve some moisture.  1 / 2 / 3	Lowest water needs — Water at installation to a depth of 6-inches, then light waterings for next 2-3 weeks. Grass will shade soil and prevent drying.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Seed Quality</b>	Extremely variable because of germination rates, weed and foreign matter content; unknown or unspecified varieties. Generally lower quality seed than used in cultivated sod production.  1 / 2 / 3		Typically highest available sod quality, certified, elite seed. May be certified to prove specific variety. Mixtures & blends used to suit area needs.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Weed Control</b>	Multiple applications of chemicals usually required to combat competitive weed invasions until turf is well established. 1 / 2 / 3		Minimal, if any chemical control required. 1 / 2 / 3
<b>Uniformity of Coverage</b>	Seeding varieties, rates, germination times, wash-outs (erosion), traffic, feeding birds and rodents can create spottiness.  1 / 2 / 3		99 to 100% uniformity with use of mature turfgrass sod.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Runoff/Erosion</b>	Heavy rains or sloping areas will cause seed, chemicals and silt to wash onto sidewalks and into sewer systems.  Little, if any protection for several months. 1 / 2 / 3	Mulch should reduce erosion/runoff.  1 / 2 / 3	Capable of accepting heavy rains without erosion or damage.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Visual Impact</b>	Rough texture and open soil  1 / 2 / 3	Colored mulches act to camouflage soil appearance.  1 / 2 / 3	Immediate beauty of a 'complete' and mature landscape.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Useability</b>	Low traffic use 2 to 4 months after seeding with faster germinating seed. Normal to high use only after first year.  1 / 2 / 3		Low traffic immediately. Normal, high traffic levels within 2 to 3 weeks.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>Installation costs</b>	Lowest cost 1 / 2 / 3	Low to mid-level cost 1 / 2 / 3	Highest cost 1 / 2 / 3
<b>Cost vs. Value</b>	Higher management and maintenance costs, compounded by increased water and chemical applications, as well as delay of use, poor uniformity and visually unappealing are trade-offs for lower installation cost.  1 / 2 / 3		Installation costs offset by added values of timing, useability, uniformity and visual appeal. Reduced maintenance, chemical and water costs.  1 / 2 / 3
<b>SCORE TOTALS</b>	Seeding =	Hydroseeding =	Sodding =