



Aftercare Instructions

AERATION & OVERSEEDING

Three easy steps for caring for your lawn after aeration and overseeding:

1. Leave plugs where they lie.

2. Mow as usual.

3. Watering is not necessary, but will speed up the breakdown of the plugs and germination of the seed.

Your lawn was aerated today by machines that extract cores of soil, thatch and grass. Plugs (cores of soil) 1" diameter and ½-2½" in length are on the surface of the lawn. Your aftercare instructions are to simply leave the plugs where they are and to mow as usual at our preferred height of 3".

We finished today with overseeding, an application of our custom seed blends. Seed was placed into the aeration holes and on the lawn surface with our broadcast spreaders. Unless you top-dressed your lawn with loam, don't expect much seed to germinate on the surface, it will be primarily in the aeration holes. Overseeding will help thicken thin or weak lawns and add improved grass varieties that are better able to withstand drought, full sun, shade or higher activity levels. This process is generally done in the late summer through fall for optimal results since annual weeds cannot germinate and compete with the newly seeded lawn. To maximize results, we typically use several different blends of seed to address the needs of specific lawn areas, from full sun to shade.

Aftercare

Simply leave the plugs where they are and mow as usual. The aeration plugs will break down normally over time and with rainfall. Watering is not necessary unless extremely dry or if your lawn was top-dressed with loam.

More on Mowing

You can mow any time because the seeds are an inch or two below ground in the holes created by the aeration machine. If you top-dressed the lawn yourself with loam in preparation for our visit, we recommend you don't mow those areas with significant surface grass seed for a period ranging from 2-4 weeks.

More on Watering

Watering is generally not required with overseeding unless it is unusually dry or if you want to speed up the germination process and the breakdown of the aeration plugs. If you choose to water, we suggest watering daily in the morning for 15-30 minutes, depending upon sun exposure, soil composition (sandy soil retains less moisture) and natural rainfall. Focus on sunny locations, as shady areas tend to do well on their own. Watering is recommended if you top-dressed any sections of the lawn where the surface is likely to dry out. The seed down in the aeration holes stays relatively moist in most weather conditions. Any irrigation will speed up the germination process, but is not critical for the aeration holes in most situations.

Germination Times

All of our Chippers' seed blends take 2-4 weeks to germinate. Please be patient! And because we blend different types of seeds, you may notice some seeds will germinate more quickly



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than others in the same lawn section. Again, please be patient. Our premium shade grass and bluegrass often take up to a month to germinate and slowly fill in over time.

How Long Will the Plugs Stay on the Lawn?

Depending on your grass type and height, you may see relatively large amounts of plugs lying on top of the lawn. This is normal and the plugs should be left alone. The plugs will breakdown naturally with rainfall and mowing. Allowing them to filter back into the lawn aids the thatch decomposition process and adds nutrients.

Frequency/Time of Year

We recommend a late summer to fall aeration and overseeding as a vital annual lawn improvement service, or every-other-year at a minimum. Spring may be recommended if there is turf damage due to snow or ice damage or for new clients with a thin or weak lawn, versus waiting until fall. A fall service will help mitigate summer's insect, disease, heat and/or drought damage. For overseeding, fall also has the added benefits of warmer soil temperature, cooler air temperature and minimal competition from annual weeds like crabgrass.

Soil Restoration

You may have opted for a spring and/or fall soil restoration service that would have been applied during this visit to help improve a new lawn or one with poor soil (sandy) known to be low in organic matter. This granular product will help both the newly seeded grass and existing turf. No aftercare is required on your part. Adding organic matter is key to improving drought tolerance, stabilizing fertility levels and hosting a healthy soil profile to support the turf above. We often recommend compost tea and seaweed sprays as additional friendly treatments that work in conjunction with the soil restoration process.

Thank you for choosing us to care for your lawn. For more information on our organic and traditional lawn care, tick control, new mosquito and black fly control, as well as all our green care services, visit our website and blog at chippersinc.com. For lawn care questions, please email turf@chippersinc.com.

Woodstock • 802.457.5100 Concord 603.225.9600 • Enfield 603.448.4800
Meredith 603.279.7400 • New London 603.526.4500

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