



Before and after, on one page.

Everything your new grass needs. Keep it on the fridge or by your sprinkler controller.

1 Before we arrive

1–2 days ahead

- ✓ **Water deeply** so the soil is moist, not muddy. A screwdriver should push in about 3 inches.
- ✓ **Mow to about 2½ inches** and bag the clippings (optional, but it helps).
- ✓ **Flag what's underground** with wire flags, not paint: sprinkler heads, valves, shallow pipes, lighting wires, septic lids and lines.
- ✓ **Invisible dog fence:** have the wire located and flagged every 2–3 feet.
- ✓ **Clear the lawn,** unlock gates and keep pets inside.
- ✓ **No crabgrass preventer or weed & feed** this fall. Most stop grass seed for 12–16 weeks.

Good to know: Tennessee 811 marks public utility lines only. Private lines like sprinklers, dog fences and landscape lighting are up to you to flag.

2 After service

What to do, and when

- Today** **Start watering.** Leave the plugs — they break down in 1–3 weeks.
- Days 1–14** **Keep the top inch damp:** ⅛–¼ inch a day in 2–4 short cycles. Fescue sprouts in about 6–12 days.
- Weeks 2–4** **Water deeper, less often:** about ½ inch every 2–3 days once seedlings are 2 inches tall. Blow leaves off — no rakes.
- ~4 inches** **First mow,** cutting back to 3 inches. Dry grass, sharp blade, wide turns.
- Weeks 4–8** **Normal care:** about 1 inch of water a week, rain included. Feed lightly.
- 3 mowings** **Weed control is OK** — follow the label.
- Next spring** **The payoff.** Keep tall fescue mowed at 3–4 inches.

WATERING	TARGET	HOW OFTEN	SPRAY HEADS*	ROTORS*
Days 1–14	⅛–¼ inch a day in total	2 cycles in cool weather; 3–4 when hot, sunny or windy	5–10 min a day e.g., 4 × 2	15–30 min a day e.g., 4 × 6
Weeks 2–4	About ½ inch per watering	Taper from daily to every 2–3 days	~20 min	~60 min
Established	About 1 inch a week, rain included	½ inch once or twice a week	~20 min per ½ inch	~60 min per ½ inch

*Typical output: spray heads about 1½ in./hr, rotors about ½ in./hr; rotating-stream nozzles (like MP Rotators) run at about rotor speed. Water early and finish by mid-afternoon so grass dries before night.

Avoid these mistakes

- ✗ Easing off water at the first green sprouts
- ✗ Puddles and runoff that wash seed away
- ✗ Letting leaves sit and mat on new grass
- ✗ Spreading more seed in the first 3–4 weeks
- ✗ Raking up or removing the plugs
- ✗ Mowing before the new grass reaches ~4 inches
- ✗ Pre-emergent or weed & feed on new seed
- ✗ Shutting off irrigation too early in a dry fall

The cup test

Set out a few cans, run a zone for 15 minutes, and measure. ¼ inch means that zone puts down 1 inch an hour.

Cycle and soak

Runoff on clay? Split long runs into cycles of about 5 minutes (spray) or 15 (rotors), an hour apart.

Blow, don't rake

Don't let leaves mat for more than a few days. Rake tines pull up seedlings; a blower on low won't.

Service date _____ Seed sprouting (6–12 days after) _____ Target first mow (~3–4 weeks) _____



Questions? We're here to help.

Serving Lenox Village, Nippers Corner, Antioch, Cane Ridge, Crieve Hall and nearby Brentwood and Nolensville.

nashvilleaeration.com
Request service at nashvilleaeration.com/contact