

otherwise the seed will dry out and much of it will not germinate.

### MULCHING

Mulching newly-seeded lawns with straw is a common practice that does help to retain moisture and check erosion. On the other hand, mulching delays germination of some seed and can make conditions favorable for fungus growth. Where possible, and if water is not too costly, it is advisable to water the area 2 to 3 times a day rather than use a mulch.

### EROSION CONTROL

To control erosion on newly-seeded lawns, it is best to use materials such as Erosionet. This material is like a tennis net allowing sun to reach the area without creating conditions favorable to the growth of fungus as may occur with straw or burlap.

### MAINTENANCE

#### WATERING

Watering new lawns differs from that of older lawns. Keep the new area damp and do not allow it to become completely dry, especially once the seed has begun to germinate or when the sprigs, plugs or sod have begun to produce growth. Water may be applied any time during the day, but morning applications are best. Do not water the lawns in the evening.

#### MOWING

Do not mow young seedlings until they have reached a height of 3 inches. The grass should then be mowed to a height of 2 inches and when it has grown to 3 inches again, should be mowed again. The mower should be set at 2 inches for the first 5 or 6 mowings, then lowered to 1½ inches. A sharp mower will give an even cut and not pull young seedlings from the soil.

The same procedure for mowing newly-planted sprigs and plugs applies to mowing seedlings. Lawns which have been sodded, however, should be kept at the proper height at all times.

#### FERTILIZING

A new lawn will not require additional fertilizer for one year. Then, the recommendations for older lawns as described in the Publication 406, "Lawn Care and Maintenance" should be followed.

#### PEST CONTROL

Consult your County Extension Agent for the latest recommendations on lawn pest control. Generally, insecticides and fungicides may be applied at any stage of lawn preparation, but herbicides should not be applied until after the lawn is a year old.

This flyer has been adapted from WVU Publication 405 "New Lawns" of Professor Collier.