



Soil Preparation for New Lawns in Greeley

Greeley residents and businesses must get a variance when planting new seed or sod to water the lawn outside of the watering restrictions. If a variance is not granted, residents must follow Greeley’s watering schedule or risk getting violations and fines. Variances must be obtained when landscaping a new home/commercial property or planting seed or sod in an established yard.

Greeley requires water customers to prepare the soil with compost (organic matter) to acquire a variance. When soil is properly prepared with organic matter before planting, the landscape needs less water. Properly prepared soil retains water and diminishes runoff from the lawn onto paved surfaces. Soil in Greeley is mostly clay with pockets of sandy soil. Both sand and clay are minerals that lack organic matter. Compost is a mixture that consists of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning soil. Compost promotes microbiological activity in soils necessary for plant healthy growth.

To apply, the homeowner or landscape installer must bring the following items to our office:

- an original receipt/invoice for seed or sod
- an original receipt/invoice for compost (**not top soil, amended top soil or fertilizer**)
- a photo of rototilling or receipt of tiller purchase/rental
- a sprinkler permit number (if applicable)
- There is no fee for a variance

The variance will be issued at the time of application. A member of our staff will perform a visual inspection of the new lawn within a week. If the lawn installation is found to be in non-compliance, the variance will be revoked.

Compost must be added at a minimum rate of 4 cubic yards per 1000 square feet of area. The compost must be spread evenly on top of the existing soil (approx. 1.5 inches deep) and then rototilled in to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.

For example: a 5000 square foot yard would require 20 cubic yards of compost.

$$\frac{5000}{1000} \times 4 = 20 \text{ cubic yards}$$

Additional lawn establishment benefits are attained by adding up to 6 cubic yards per 1000 square feet and/or adding super phosphate or triple super phosphate for root growth. Phosphate should be spread on top of compost immediately before tilling in to the soil.



Good Compost Application



Inadequate Compost Application

The variance will be granted when all the criteria has been met. The variance must be posted near the building number. A variance is valid for 30 days and allows you to water outside of the watering restrictions. If you are watering to the point of run-off, you may be sited for waste and have your variance revoked. Please take down the variance when it expires.

This information is available on the web at <http://greeleygov.com/Water/variances.aspx#new>

Application for variance to water new lawns Solicitud para el permiso de riego para céspedes nuevos

Name of property owner/nombre del dueño de la propiedad: _____

Address of variante/dirección del permiso: _____

Contact (responsible party) and phone/contacto (persona responsable) y teléfono: _____

Name of landscaper (if applicable)/nombre del jardinero (si es aplicable): _____

Address/dirección: _____

Name of contractor (if applicable)/nombre del contratista: _____

Address/dirección: _____ phone/teléfono: _____

Sprinkler system: yes/no: Sistema de riego si/no: Permit##/permiso _____ call/llame 350-9830

Square feet of lawn/pies cuadrados del terreno: _____

Seed or sod/semilla o sacate: _____

Cubic yards of compost/yardas cúbicas de abono: _____

Date Installed / fecha de la instalación _____

Location of lawn/localidad del césped: _____

(north/south side, lado norte/sur de la casa, front/back, enfrente/atrás, or whole lawn, todo el terreno)

Square feet of lawn _____ ÷ 1000 x 4 = _____ cubic yards of compost
Pies cuadrados del terreno _____ ÷ 1000 x 4 = _____ yardas cúbicas de abono

I, hereby certify that all information provide here is correct and truthful and give permission to the Water Department Staff to inspect the property. I also understand that if I fail to abide by the rules I may have my variance revoked and be fined.

Por medió de la presente certifico que toda la información dada es correcta y verdadera, y doy permiso al personal de departamento de agua que inspeccione mi propiedad. También entiendo que si no obedezco las reglas pueda que se me retire el permiso y puede ser multado.

Signatura/firma _____ date installed/ fecha _____

Subdivisión/Subdivisión _____

For office use only/solo para uso de la oficina: Documentation of Soil Amendment/Documentación de enmienda del terreno.

Turf: yes/no Césped si/no **Seed/Sod** Semilla/Sacate **Calculations correct: yes/no** Calculaciones correctas si/no

System yes/no Sistema si/no

Visual inspection: Yes/No Inspección Visual si/no **Compost amendment Yes/No** Enmienda de abono si/no

Variance granted: _____ **Date:** _____ **Expires:** _____
Permiso Inspector Fecha Vencimiento