

## NEW LAWN VARIANCE

If you are installing a new lawn (either seed or sod) you must obtain a variance. Complete an application either online or in-person. Staff will review your information and ensure that the basic requirements are met before issuing a variance. There is no fee. If a variance is not granted, residents must follow Greeley's watering schedule or risk violations and fines. Variances must be obtained when landscaping a new property or overseeding or sodding an established yard.

To ensure the best outcome for your new lawn, soil amendments are **REQUIRED**. Soil can be amended with compost (organic matter) at a minimum rate of 4 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet of new lawn area. Additional lawn establishment benefits are attained by adding up to 6 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet of new lawn area. The compost must be spread evenly on top of the existing soil (approximately 1.5 inches deep) and then rototilled to a depth of 6-8 inches. For example, a 5000-square foot yard would at minimum require 20-cubic yards of compost.

$$5,000 \text{ sq. ft.} \times \frac{4 \text{ cu. yd. compost}}{1,000 \text{ sq. ft.}} = 20 \text{ cu. yd. compost}$$

Soil in Greeley lacks organic matter, and compost is used to fertilize and condition the soil. Compost also promotes microbiological activity in soils necessary for plant healthy growth. 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.

**A good compost application example is shown in the top photo; an inadequate compost application is shown in the bottom photo.**

To apply the homeowner or landscape installer must bring, mail, or email the following items to the Water and Sewer's Department's Conservation Program:

- an original receipt/invoice for seed or sod
- an original receipt/invoice for compost (not topsoil, amended topsoil, or fertilizer)
- a photo of rototilling or receipt of tiller purchase/rental

The variance will be granted if all the criteria has been met. A variance is valid for 30 days and allows you to water outside of the watering restrictions, but it does not immunize you from exceeding your water budget. Water carefully and intentionally. If you are watering to the point of run-off, you may be cited for waste and have your variance revoked. The variance signage must be posted near the building number. A member of our staff may 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. Please remove the variance when it expires.



# **New Lawn Variance Application**

## **Nueva solicitud para el permiso de riego para céspedes**

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

Address of variance/dirección del permiso:

Contact (responsible party)/contacto (persona responsable):

Phone/teléfono:

Name of landscaper or contractor (if applicable)/nombre del jardinero o contratista (si es aplicable)

Address/dirección:

Phone/teléfono:

Sprinkler system/ sistema de riego:      yes/si              no

Square feet of lawn/pies cuadrados del terreno:

Seed or sod/semilla o sacate:

Cubic yards of compost/yardas cúbicas de abono:

Square feet of lawn	$\div 1000 \times 4 =$	cubic yards of compost
Pies cuadrados del terreno	$\div 1000 \times 4 =$	yardas cúbicas de abono

Date Installed /fecha de la instalación:

Location of lawn/localidad del césped:

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

I, hereby certify that all information provide here is correct and truthful and give permission to the City 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 ciudad 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/fecha

**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