

EOS Aftercare of a Cricket Square



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Aftercare

Aftercare is vital, you have invested time and money in renovations, putting a square to bed after renovations really is not a helpful phrase and grass grows at least ten months of the year, so after care is as important as the renovations itself.

Watering is obviously the priority once the new seed is in the ground to help it germinate, usually germination takes just under a week in late September or early October.

Top Tips-I always think, if you water evening the seed will also come up more evenly.



First cut of new the new plant?

When the new plant/seed is roughly around 25-35 mm, give it a pull, if it pulls out by the root it is not anchored in enough. If the new plant/seed snaps and the root remains intact, its ready for its first cut.

You can cut with either a rotary or a cylinder mower, whatever you choose ensure it cuts the leaf cleanly and does not rip the leaf.

Don't cut more than a third of the leaf off, in any one cut. Work the height of cut down to around 18-22 mm maximum over the next couple of weeks or so.

How often?

The more cutting you do, the more thickening you will get and a denser more tightly packed grass canopy you will get.

So, cut often at least once a week.

First feed after renovations?

The first feed, usually comes after a cut or three the plant will slow down and will go yellow in appearance.

Feed prior to rain with a balanced fertiliser, something around 4%-/8% in nitrogen max.

Ensure it gets well washed in via irrigation or rain and if new seed is still present, avoid fertilisers with iron (fe) in them as this can damage young plants.

Grass grows well for at least ten months of the year, with every cut even if only once, every two weeks in Nov/Dec you are creating a denser sward for next season.

Overseeding

Often the end can come up thin after renovations and once you're sure no more seed is coming up, after a couple of cuts, it's time to overseed.

Pretty simple, make some holes, with a garden fork or sarrel roller then seed and brush the seed into the created holes. At this point you can also use a very light sprinkling of loam, just to coat the seed.

Worm treatment?

Worms are great for the soil, but sadly bad news for a cricket groundsman. Worms bring up more than likely unsuitable soil from below and this dilutes down the quality of your cricket loam.

Worms also ruin your surface levels and the cast are the perfect seeding ground for weeds, moss and weed grass.

You can use soil acidifiers to control worms, but these needs putting on at very regular intervals and not always possible, which leads most groundsman to a product such as purity.

I cannot promote or encourage the use of purity as controlling worms is off label, but understand why groundsman feel they have little choice.

I cannot advise you to use this, ever groundsman has to make his own decision as the use of purity to control worms, is off label.

Ideally worms can be controlled culturally, but with the soil make up being clay/loam in nature this is almost impossible, due to casts smearing and not being able to be disbursed easily.



Spiking?

Winter spiking of a cricket square usually starts around early/mid-November when the ground is softened enough and the new seed is strong enough to not pull out.

Spiking does not overly decompact, but it does allow air into the roots and helps surface drainage.

Spiking will give roots a channel to follow, if you can spike two/three times over winter at alternate depths, the plant and soil will benefit.

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