

Tips for Seeding and Renovation

- In addition to planting pure seed, blends and mixes are available. A blend is a combination of two or more cultivars of the same species – for example two types of Kentucky Bluegrass. A mix is a combination of different species of grass like Kentucky Bluegrass and Fescue. Both blends and mixes are formulated for specific regions and needs, using the most desirable traits of each grass type to improve the lawn.
- Apply the seed with a broad-cast or drop seeder. The coverage rates vary based on the type of seed you choose. Buy the best seed available, this is a long term investment.
- Soil to seed contact is key to getting new seed started. Expect seed germination in 1 to 3 weeks, depending on variety, temperature, and sufficient water.
- The amount and timing of watering are very important. The rule for newly-seeded lawns is the opposite of the rule for established lawns (which of course you remember is to water deeply and early in the day). Seed on the other hand must be kept moist by light frequent watering in order to germinate. Keep the soil moist until the new seedlings are about 1 inch tall. Be careful, too much water can rot the seed or wash it away.

Establishing new turf

- Dig or till to a depth of 3 inches.
- Rake to remove clumps, clods and rocks.
- Smooth and level the surface. Remember, you are establishing a finish grade so include any contours needed for drainage.
- Add compost, topsoil and starter fertilizer. Work into soil.
- Roll with a weighted lawn roller.
- Spread seed. To ensure coverage, sow half of the seed in one direction, and the other half at a right angle.
- Rake and roll again.
- Mulch with peat moss or straw.
- Water frequently to keep the seed moist (do not saturate). Cut watering back to once a day when the grass reaches about 1 inch in height.
- Mow when the grass reaches 2 ½ to 3 inches high.
- After it's been mowed 3 times, use regular watering schedules of 1 inch per week.
- Apply a pre-emergent crabgrass control to stop germination of unwanted grass.

Overseeding an existing lawn

To fill out an otherwise healthy lawn or to add extra green for the winter months.

- Mow lower than usual.
- Thatch if needed or rake to thin the existing turf.
- Aerate to reduce soil compaction.
- Amend with compost.
- Add starter fertilizer.
- Apply seed. Make sure you get the same variety or varieties of grass to match the rest of your lawn.
- Rake in loosely.
- Top-dress with mulch, compost or peat moss.

Fixing bare spots

If your only problem is a bad spot or two.

- Make sure the damage is not from a pest.
- Remove the dead grass and loosen the soil.
- Spread grass and rake in. Make sure you get the same variety or varieties of grass to match the rest of your lawn.
- Mulch with thin layer straw or peat moss.