

SEEDING YOUR NEW LAWN

Preparing the Site

Remove all vegetation. A non-selective herbicide such as *Fertilome KillZall* or *Round-Up*, which does not sterilize the soil is excellent for this purpose.

Modify the soil if needed for good drainage or aeration. Spagnum peat moss or mushroom compost may be used; till the soil to a depth of two to five inches.

Level and grade the soil. Allow the soil to settle before proceeding.

Apply starter fertilizer high in phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) such as *Lebanon Seed Starter*. This fertilizer encourages root system development. Remember; do not apply crabgrass preventer during seeding unless it is crabgrass preventer with Tupersan or Siduron. Use of another type of crabgrass control will prevent the grass seed from germinating.

Seeding

Timing. Grass seed germinates best in early fall such as September, or in early spring such as late March or April. Cooler moist weather is ideal for grass germination.

Seed selection. Grass seed varieties differ in their tolerance of fertility, shade, traffic and disease. Varieties are often mixed to get a lawn that will perform well for the situation. Be sure to select seed that will do well for your particular situation. The old saying, "You get what you pay for", is especially true with grass seed. Some cheaper quality grass seed has a higher count of weed seed. Definitely not what you want to plant in your new lawn!

Spreading the seed. A mechanical seeder or fertilizer spreader is best used for even distribution of seed. Follow the basic rate recommendations for your particular seed variety. Divide quantity needed in an area in half. Apply first half, then go back over the area at right angles and apply the second half.

Rake lightly to mix the seed and fertilizer in the top 1/4" of soil.

Mulch to retain moisture and prevent the seed from washing away. We recommend mulch specifically for grass seeding, which also contains a starter fertilizer (an *Establisher* type product).

Caring for Your New Lawn

Watering is critical. Water immediately after seeding. Soak to a depth of several inches by light, continuous watering. Keep top inch of soil moist in the first month by light waterings two to three times daily. In hot weather, you may have to water more often. After the first month, decrease frequency to several times a week, but apply more water so that it can soak deeper forcing the grass to root deeper.

Fertilizer high in phosphorous such as *Lebanon Seed Starter Formula* should be applied at the time of seeding. The next feeding should be with a slow release lawn fertilizer in a month or so.

Mowing-Mow when the grass is 1/3 higher than you plan to maintain it. Set the mower at 2-3" high and mow frequently to reduce weeds. If your grass does become much longer than you intend to maintain it, set your mower higher for your first mowing and allow the grass to grow for a day or two before you set the mower lower and mow again. It is best for the mower not to remove more than 1/3 of the plant at a time. Be sure to keep your mower blades well sharpened for the best results.