

Installing a Seed Lawn

The optimal times to seed a lawn in the Pacific Northwest is between Sept. 1st and Oct. 15, but second best is between Feb 15th and May 1st.



First, calculate the square footage of space for your new lawn. To figure square footage, simply multiply the length and width.

Next, examine the amount of light the area receives. There are seed mixes for every kind of situation. Shade, sun, high traffic, water conservation, and environmentally sound seeds are available now.

After that, you will need to prepare your soil for the seed.

Steps for seeding a lawn



Remove old turf.

There are a couple of ways to remove old or unwanted turf.

Sheet mulching the entire area in the spring or fall will slowly smother out the turf underneath. This leaves an area ready to cultivate in organic matter and prepares for seeding. A quicker option is use glyphosate; the active ingredient

in Round-up or Eraser. Apply this 14 days before removing turf, hard rake the thatched areas, and rototill at least one inch deep. This will aid in weed prevention and help to achieve an even green turf. This is also a good time to add amendments such as lime or compost.



Leveling the bed and sowing seed

Use a steel lawn rake to even out the soil and remove stones. This will help attain a flat surface and will provide superior germination results. Add lime, 50# per 1000 sq. ft to sweeten up the soil. Sprinkle over area to be seeded and rake into the surface.

Divide the seed into two lots. Using a drop spreader, distribute the first lot, then distribute the second lot at right angles to the first. In smaller areas, this can be done by using a hand held spreader or by hand. When using a drop spreader, make sure the edges are touched up by hand.



Rake in seed and roll.

Lightly rake the entire area to ensure good contact between the seed and soil. The depth of the seed should be between 1/8 to 1/4

inch. Use a water roller, to compact the entire area. This will help the seed assimilate more water and quicken germination time.



Add mulch or compost.

This will also speed up germination and keep the birds from eating seed. If the area is on a slope, this will help keep the seed in place and prevent erosion. The mulch should be spread thin enough to see the soil underneath.



Water thoroughly.

Sown lawns must be kept constantly moist. Thoroughly soak the area after planting to a depth of 6 inches. Water by hand two to three times a day. This should be done more often when it's hot and/or windy, and should be applied using a fine spray so that the seed is not disturbed. It is important to keep the area free of any traffic for at least 6-8 weeks. Only after this period of time should gentle mowing commence. The soil will be soft and the grass will be more delicate than an established lawn.



Types of seed:

Sun and Shade Mixes contain:

Perennial Rye grasses- this grass is softer and thinner than fescue, requires more fertilizer and water and has less shade tolerance

Fescue grasses-this grass has thicker harder blades, shade, drought and traffic tolerant.

Traffic mix contains:

Annual ryegrass, more seedy than perennial rye grass, good for playgrounds and dog runs. Tolerates sun or shade.

Tuff Turf contains:

Fescue grasses- thicker harder blades, good drought , traffic tolerance. Can take sun or shade.

Water Warden contains:

Hard, tall fescue. Takes drought and traffic. Tolerates sun and shade.

Envirolawn contains:

Fescue, Yarrow, Ryegrass, Strawberry Clover, White Alyssum, English Daisy
This mix has many flowers which can be mowed and is drought and traffic tolerant. Best for sun, but will tolerate some shade.

7-10 pound bag will cover
1000 square feet.

Equipment you will need:

- Rototiller
- Steel Lawn rake
- Water roller
- Drop Spreader

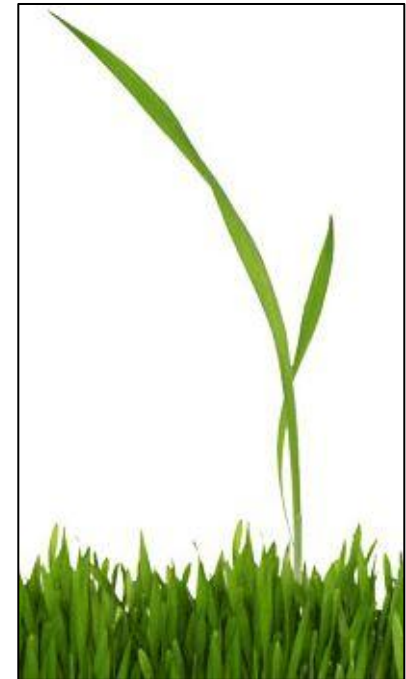
Portland Nursery has lawn rakes, rollers, and spreaders available for use with a refundable deposit. Please call ahead to be sure they are available for use.

Rototillers can be rented at Lewis Rents or any equipment rental store.



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Guidelines on How-To
and Equipment Needs



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