



Fall Overseeding

Warm soil temperatures, cooler air temperatures, and additional moisture in the air, make it an ideal time for lawn care. Whether repairing damage caused by heat stress or insects, or just thickening your existing turf, fall is an ideal season to apply grass seed. Fall conditions are perfect for optimal seed germination.

Applying grass seed effectively requires careful preparation and execution to ensure optimal germination and growth. Follow these steps and best practices for successful grass seed application:

- **Choose the Right Seed:** Select a grass seed variety that is well-suited to your climate, soil type, and lawn conditions. We recommend a Shade seed blend for areas that receive less than 5 hours of sunlight.
- **Prepare the Soil:** Thoroughly prepare the soil by removing debris, weeds, and rocks. Loosen the topsoil using a rake or mechanical aerator to create a favorable environment for seed-to-soil contact. Fall aeration is beneficial for seeding and overall health of the lawn.
- **Amend Soil:** If soil is depleted or bare, top dress with a suitable soil mix.
- **Mow and Dethatch:** Mow your existing lawn to a shorter height and dethatch if needed.
- **Seed Distribution:** Use a seed spreader to evenly distribute the grass seed across the prepared soil. Follow the recommended seeding rate on the seed packaging to avoid over- or under-seeding. *Note: seed laying on top of seed does not effectively germinate.
- **Granular Starter Fertilizer:** A granular starter fertilizer can be applied at the time of seeding.
- **Raking and Soil Contact:** Gently rake the seeded area to lightly cover the seeds with a thin layer of soil. This enhances seed-to-soil contact while ensuring the seeds are not buried.
- **Watering Routine:** Water the seeded area immediately after seeding. If using a water soluble fertilizer, it can be applied at this stage. Maintain consistent moisture; light, frequent watering is preferable over heavy watering, as it helps prevent seed washout and promotes germination.
- **Patience and Care:** Be patient! Germination can take anywhere from 7 to 21 days depending on the grass type and conditions. Avoid heavy foot traffic on newly seeded areas until the grass is well-established.
- **Gradual Mowing:** Once the new grass reaches a height of 7-10cm (3-4") mow it for the first time. Ensure the mower blades are sharp and set to a higher mowing height to avoid stressing the young seedlings.
- **Routine Maintenance:** Continue regular watering, mowing, and fertilizing to encourage strong root development for a lush, healthy lawn. A mid-October fertilizer application is recommended.

