

WAGNERS CARE CARD

LAWN SEEDING

Best time to overseed your lawn or to start a new one in Minnesota is either early spring (April) before it gets too hot, or in the fall (mid to late August), so the lawn has enough time to establish before winter arrives.



BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Water The most critical step in growing a strong, thick, healthy NEW lawn is proper watering. You need to keep the ground moist until the seedlings are up and established – until they're 2 ½ to 3 inches tall. For best results, let the sprinkler run just until puddles begin to form; and do that several times a day (2 or 3 times maybe more, depending on the weather). Remember: frequent, light waterings — not once a day drenchings!



CARE & MAINTENANCE

Seeding When choosing grass seed, consider these three things:

1. **Light.** The amount of sun or shade in your yard. Make sure that the mix you're considering is a good match. Remember that "shade grass" does well in light shade (4 to 6 hours of direct sun per day or lightly dappled sun throughout the day).
2. **Moisture.** Be sure the water requirement for the seed you're planting matches what's natural for your area. If you plant a variety with high-drought tolerance, you won't have to worry about your lovely new lawn wilting or going dormant during drier times of the year.
3. **Traffic.** Some grass varieties are more resistant to the pitter-patter of little and not-so-little feet. The most attractive low-wearability grass choice won't look attractive for long if it can't stand up to the wear and tear of an often-used back yard, so choose accordingly.

The ideal time for planting most kinds of grass is late summer or early fall. That's the best time for germination and early growth for cool-season grasses; annual weeds are much less aggressive then, as well. Warm-season grasses can also be started as early in the spring as possible.

When seeding:

- Spread the seed. Use either a broadcast or a drop-type spreader. For best coverage, plant the seed in two passes: half at a time, at right angles to each other.
- Rake or tamp. Give the seed good contact with the soil by raking or tamping it lightly, barely covering it (seed needs light to grow). Dragging an ordinary garden hose over the seeded surface works well.
- Mulch, for best results. Mulch holds in moisture, to help the seeds sprout. Compost, peat, straw and cheesecloth all work well, but keep it light, so sun and water can get through to the seed.



WAGNERS

A Garden of Ideas

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