



Lawn Seeding Guide



*Fall and spring are the easiest times to start a new lawn from seed.
Follow these simple steps to get it done right!*

Materials & Tools

- Seed (See Choosing Seed)
- Master Start & Master Green Fertilizers
- Top Dressing
- Soil Conditioner (See Soil Conditioning)
- Roto-Tiller
- Small Garden Rake
- Landscape Rake
- Shovel
- Wheelbarrow
- Humus
- Water Roller
- Spreader
- Gypsum (hard, clay soils)

Choosing Seed

Most people want an evergreen lawn with good winter appearance:

- For more durability, disease resistance and fast development we recommend **Nugget Blend** (a bluegrass/dwarf fescue blend).
- For a service or play lawn, use **Rough 'N' Tumble** or **Sun & Shadow** that contains turf type fescues.

Fertilizer

We recommend **Master Start** at the time of seeding for fast development after germination. See our Established Lawn Care Guide for later care.

Soil Conditioning

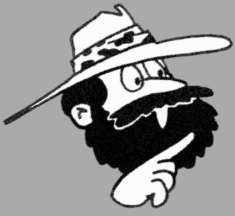
Because all soil is lacking humus, an organic soil conditioner like **Forest Humus** (sold in bulk) mixed into the soil is always helpful. This allows better soil penetration, better root development and better nutrient retention.

Use a minimum of 1" and up to 2"-4" spread over the soil. Use 1 cu. yd. per 300 sq. ft. for each inch of depth you plant to mix it in. The more you apply, the deeper you can mix it in. Add 6-10lbs of **Master Green Fertilizer** for each yard of humus before mixing it into the soil.

Soils with heavy clay also should apply **Gypsum** at the rate of 100-200 lbs per 1000 sq.ft. This improves water penetration and root development.

Preparation

1. Clear off any large weeds. If there is an abundance of weeds, they should be killed first using **Round Up** or hoed and removed. Clear the area of any plaster, rock, boards, concrete or paint that may be in the area.
2. Water the soil until the water penetrates to a depth of 10"-12".
3. Roto-till the soil to a depth of 6"-8". Make sure there's no hard spots that haven't been tilled to the full depth.
4. If you have not installed a sprinkler system or mow strips, now is the time to do so.



Lawn Seeding Guide-Continued



Preparation, Continued

5. Next, rough grade the soil level to about 1" below curbs and mowing strips, and sloped away from the house and patios. If you are going to condition the soil with humus, grade lower to allow for this. Add the humus and roto-till this in.
6. Grade the soil a second time, this time rolling with the water roller. Check the soil for proper slope and for high and low spots. Check closely that there are no low spots that will create puddles and that the final grade is 1" below mow strips and sidewalks.
7. After your last rolling, rake lightly with the garden rake to provide some texture for the seed and fertilizer.

Seeding

Apply the **Master Start** fertilizer according to package directions, followed by the seed.

The last thing to do is cover the seed with a thin layer of humus at the rate of 1cu. yd. per 1200 sq. ft. Be sure not to bury the seed, just apply a thin layer. Now start watering!

Watering & Germination

It is essential that the seed be kept moist at all times until all the seed germinates.

Most seed mixtures contain fast germinating seed such as perennial rye and slow germinating types like blue grass. If you allow the seed to dry out before the slow germinating grasses sprout you lose one part of the mix and some of the benefits offered in the mixture of grasses.

Fast germinating seed takes 3-14 days, while slow germinating kinds take 14-30 days depending on temperature and weather. Cold foggy weather can prolong this process even more.

In warm weather, watering briefly, 3-5 times daily should be enough to keep the humus dark. In cool weather, once a day may be sufficient.

Weeds

Every lawn has some weeds. Most weeds will die with mowing and the rest can be eliminated by using selective weed killer after the lawn has been mowed 5-6 times (see Early Care, below, for mowing).

If hand pulling weeds on new lawns, use a board to walk on (disperse weight evenly) when pulling weeds.

Not sure what weed you have? Bring in a sample to one of our Master Nursery Professionals to identify and recommend proper control methods. We also have a free **Lawn Weed Control** handout.

Early Care

The first mowing should be when the lawn is about 3" tall. Cut to 2".

Fertilize with **Master Green** lawn fertilizer after 4-6 weeks, depending on growth.

The first application of broad leaf weed killer should wait until the lawn has been mowed about 5 times. We recommend a regular mowing height of 2" or higher for regular turf-type lawns.

Generally, 4-6 feedings a year with **Master Green** should be enough to give you a thick, green lawn resistant to most weeds.