

SUCCESSFUL SEEDING

FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES FOR BOTH OVER-SEEDING LAWNS AND ESTABLISHING NEW LAWNS.



1. Choose the proper Jonathan Green grass seed for the growing conditions of your lawn.
2. If the lawn has not been mowed, do so before raking the ground to loosen the soil. While raking, remove dead grass, stones, sticks, etc. from the lawn area. In the case of larger areas, use of a rented, motorized, thatching machine can be helpful in the establishment of a seed bed.



3. Apply a new seeding fertilizer and MAG-I-CAL (or lime) or other soil amendments if needed. Fertilizer and lime can be applied (in any order) on the same day, and should be raked into the soil.
4. Apply seed at the proper rate, listed on bag, by hand or with a spreader. For maximum germination, please be sure that the grass seed is in firm contact with the loosened soil. Do not seed too heavily. Grass seed should be raked lightly into the soil. Applying a seed establishment mulch as the last step can be helpful in establishing seed, use in place of straw for moisture retention and erosion control.



5. The seed bed should be kept moist for a few weeks while the grass seed is germinating. Light waterings are of benefit during the early days when the newly seeded area is establishing. Within a few weeks, after the newly seeded grass needs to be mowed, you can decrease your watering schedule.
6. Once the lawn is established, it is important to water your lawn deeply each time you irrigate. In the absence of rainfall, this means watering one to two times per week for about 30 minutes in areas of the lawn that receive full sun, and 10 to 15 minutes in shady areas. The lawn needs about one inch of water per week for best results. Consult with your dealer for a follow up lawn maintenance program.

HELPFUL LAWN TIPS

WEED CONTROL TIPS: One of the best ways to combat weeds is to seed with superior turfgrass plants that compete successfully in the lawn. Core or slice aeration of the soil before seeding will improve germination and alleviate compaction. Aeration of the lawn helps the grass roots and fertilizer enter the soil profile and increases bio-activity.

CRABGRASS AND GRASSY WEEDS germinate in the spring when the soil becomes warm enough. Apply crabgrass controls during spring months for the best control. Watering the lawn after application enhances control and feeding action. After applying, delay seeding for approximately four months.

BROADLEAF WEEDS: apply controls when weeds are actively growing throughout the year. Do not mow 2 days before or after application. Apply to moist grass. Do not water for 1-2 days after application and delay application if rainfall is expected within 24 hours. After applying this product, do not seed for 4 weeks.

WATERING TIPS: A total of one inch of water per week, including rainfall, is desirable. Watering deeply two or three times a week in the morning for 30-45 minutes, when necessary, is most beneficial for your lawn, encouraging deep root growth. Avoid frequent watering for short periods of time and avoid watering at night.

LAWN MOWING TIPS: Do not mow your grass too short. A height of 2½ to 3½ inches works best for a healthy lawn by preventing disease and shading the soil to inhibit weed seed germination. Raise the mowing height during summer months, lawns that are mowed higher require less watering. Keep your mower blade sharp so that you do not “shred” your grass, making it vulnerable to disease. Do not mow wet grass. Do not cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade. Mow regularly, usually once a week. Rotate your mowing patterns. Leave grass clippings on the lawn, as long as they are not in clumps, to decompose and return nutrients and water back into the soil. Mulching mowers work very well and are designed to finely shred clippings. Clippings do not promote thatch.

SOIL pH: Before starting any lawn care program, a soil test should be performed to determine your soil’s pH level. Apply MAG-I-CAL and/or soil amendments to reach a desirable pH level. When soil is balanced with a pH level between 6.0 to 6.8, lawns thrive and the incidence of weeds is reduced. Weeds thrive in acidic soil, soil with a pH below 6.0. You may apply MAG-I-CAL during the growing season and also while applying other lawn products.

Be aware of local ordinance requirements concerning fertilizers. They may limit or prohibit fertilizer applications from late fall to early spring.

Keep fertilizers out of reach of children. Do not apply near water, storm drains, or drainage ditches. Do not apply if heavy rain is expected. Apply fertilizer only to your lawn or garden and sweep any product that lands on the driveway, sidewalk or street back onto your lawn or garden. Also, sweep fertilizer off concrete surfaces to avoid possible staining.



Jonathan Green

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