

## LAWN SEEDING TIPS

Good seeding is all about proper germination. Germination depends on good soil contact. The more you can do to improve soil contact, the better your lawn will be. Seed germinates when the soil temperature is 58 degrees or greater (this is different than air temperature.) Seed that sits in cold, wet soil will rot and won't germinate.

### **BARE GROUND:**

- Grade soil as smooth as possible, removing as many rocks and holes as possible.
- Scatter seed as evenly as you can, perhaps going over the area twice (one direction, then perpendicular)
- Tamp down seed or roll the lawn to firm up the seed bed and help push seed into the topsoil.
- Seed can be covered with a light layer of chopped ground cover (recommended), straw, or peat moss. Do not use hay as it will produce weeds in your lawn.
- Keep it watered (keep it moist most of the time)
- Remember that some grass types may need 3-4 weeks to germinate. Be patient.
- Use a starter fertilizer. DO NOT use regular lawn fertilizer, as it will burn your grass seed.

### **OVERSEEDING:**

- Mow existing grass as close as possible and rake off all clippings to remove anything that might interfere with soil contact. This also helps prepare the soil to receive the seed.
- Scatter seed as evenly as you can, perhaps going over the area twice (one direction, then perpendicular)
- Tamp down seed or roll the lawn to firm up the seed bed and help push seed into the topsoil.
- Seed can be covered with a light layer of chopped ground cover (recommended), straw, or peat moss. Do not use hay as it will produce weeds in your lawn.
- Keep it watered (keep it moist most of the time)
- Remember that some grass types may need 3-4 weeks to germinate. Be patient.
- Use a starter fertilizer. DO NOT use regular lawn fertilizer, as it will burn your grass seed.

Healthy lawns take time to establish. A lawn is considered to be established once it has been mowed three times. At this point it is safe to use regular lawn fertilizer. Always follow the recommendations on the fertilizer bag: overfertilizing is harmful as well as a waste of money. Consider adding pelleted lime as well, as lime improves the effectiveness of fertilizer.