



Choosing Your Seed

For best results follow these seven steps when planting grass seed.

Step 1: Test your soil

The results will give you baseline quantities of nutrients and amendments found in the soil. Utilize this information to make an educated decision on how many specific additives are needed.

Step 2: Choose the correct grass seed

Read the seed tag label. Figure out what type of grass will grow best in your region. The old adage “You get what you paid for” is true when choosing grass seed. The seed cost is insignificant compared to the time that will be invested in building a great lawn.

- Buy an A-LIST® Certified grass seed. The A-LIST® is compiled by the National Turf Evaluation Program's Alliance for Low Input Sustainable Turf. These seed varieties have been specifically bred for superior green grass color, disease and insect resistance and drought tolerance.
- Look for a seed coating. Seed coatings increase germination and root establishment.
- Look for no/low weed seed. “Don't Plant a Problem”. Any seed label that contains more than 1% weed seed shouldn't be used.

Step 3: Prepare the soil

For planting new lawns:

- Dig or till the ground to a 3-inch depth. Rake to remove debris, clumps and clods.
- Level the ground.
- Do not use weed killers before or after planting seed.

For over-seeding an existing lawn:

- Mow grass as short as possible.
- Loosen the top ¼ inch of soil in bare spots.
- Remove debris and dead grass.

Step 4: Plant grass seed

- Spread the seed evenly by hand in small areas.
- Use your hand, lawn spreader or a mechanical seeder in large areas.
- Too many seeds too close together causes seedlings to fight for room and nutrients. Grass may be weak or thin in these areas.



Step 5: Cover seeds

- Lightly drag the grass seed bed so no more than ¼ inch of soil covers the grass seed. Remember the seed has to make good contact with the soil
- Fertilize using Branch Creek's Weed Prevention with Lawn Food or TriForce starter fertilizer
- Cover the grass seed bed with Penn Mulch to hold seed in place and retain moisture. Do not use hay! Hay contains weed seeds that will sprout and eventually take over the lawn. Remember “Don't Plant a Problem”.

Step 6: Water often

- Keep grass seed bed moist to enhance germination. Water frequently to keep the seeds moist (don't saturate).
- Cut watering back to once a day when the grass reaches about 1 inch in height.
- Water new grass regularly to keep roots moist.

Step 7: Mow when the grass reaches 2 ½ to 3 inches

Do not apply weed control products prior to seeding the lawn. Delay the weed control application until the grass seed has germinated and you have mowed the grass 4 - 5 times.

Timing is critical with seed installation. The grass seed needs to fully germinate before summer heat or freezing temperatures arrive in your region.

For more information visit 

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Visual Installation Guide

Too much grass seed causes competition for light, water, space and nutrients. In this environment grass seedlings will struggle to grow and develop properly.

Too little seed will leave the lawn thin or bare.

Always follow the seeding rates on the label when planting grass seed.

New Lawn 5 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(35 seeds per box)

25% Coverage 4 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(28 seeds per box)

50% Coverage 3 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(21 seeds per box)

75% Coverage 2 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(14 seeds per box)

 = Tall Fescue  = Kentucky Bluegrass  = Perennial Ryegrass

For more information visit 

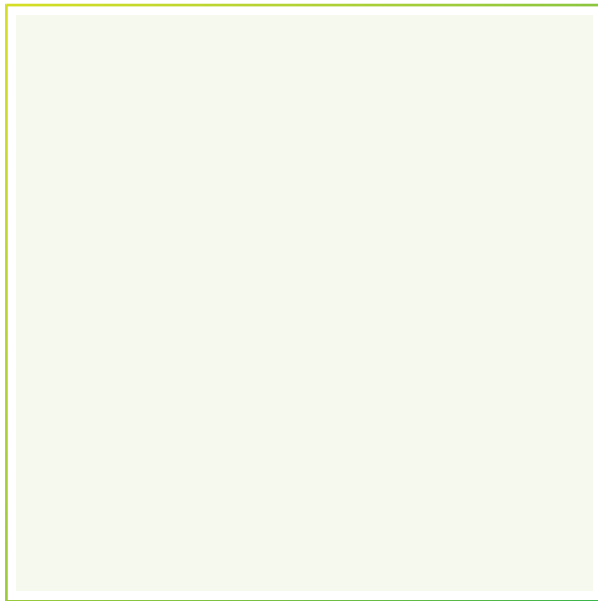
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Calibration Guide

1. Place calibration guide on desired part of the lawn.
2. Use a drop or rotary spreader and walk past the guide making sure to spread the seed onto the paper.
3. Gather seed that lands in the 3' x 3' box and count total number of seeds.
4. Match total seed quantities to specific pounds per 1,000 sq.ft.
5. Adjust spreader if needed and repeat until you reach calibration.



Calibration Box

New Lawn

5 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(35 seeds per box)

25% Coverage

4 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(28 seeds per box)

50% Coverage

3 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(21 seeds per box)

75% Coverage

2 lb per 1,000 sq.ft.
(14 seeds per box)

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