



How to Avoid Lawn Failure

There are a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration to achieve the full potential of our grass seed. On this card you will find helpful pointers that, if followed, should lead to a beautiful, thick, healthy lawn.

Watering

The single most frequent reason for lawn failure is lack of proper watering. The very first time water contacts grass seed from the package, each seed begins the process of sprouting. If at ANY TIME from the first wetting until actual sprouting, the seed is allowed to dry out, it will die. Light watering 2-3 times per day until grass uniformly appears is necessary to ensure maximum sprouting. Top dressing with peat moss, sawdust or other fine organic matter will help conserve moisture as well as minimize erosion.

Germination

This term refers to how many seeds out of each 100 in the package you buy are live seeds. The minimum percentage for certified seed is 85%. Ours are much higher, usually 95% or more! Germination also refers to the time it takes for grass seed to sprout. This period varies with the temperature, moisture and type of grass planted. Generally, under ideal conditions, grass will appear after 5 to 14 days. Very cool or very hot temperatures will slow the process. Other species including bluegrass, fine fescue, bentgrass, and bermudagrass may take even longer to germinate.

Wind, Rain, & Birds

The same light covering of top dressing that helps conserve moisture is also a great help with birds that love to eat large quantities of seed. Heavy rains and high winds can combine to blow light dry seed and soil away. Proper watering should keep the seed in place during these periods. To protect against seed dispersal and predation, seed can be buried between 1/4-1/2" below the soil surface. This also decreases the chance of drying out.



Seeding a New Lawn

1. Prepare seed bed by removing debris and large rocks, then tilling to a depth of 4-6".
2. Smooth soil by raking or dragging.
3. Spread recommended fertilizer for your particular soil condition.
4. Sow seed evenly.
5. Incorporate seed and fertilizer into soil at 1/3 to 1/2" with very light raking.
6. Roll surface with medium weight roller to firm soil around seed.
7. Keep surface moist with frequent light waterings.
8. Seed will not germinate in dry soil.
9. Mow when new plants are approximately 3" tall. Set mower on high setting, approximately 2" until new lawn is established. Be mindful of species that prefer to be mowed shorter like bentgrass and bermudagrass, and be aware of general turf capabilities when mowing below recommended mowing heights.

Spot Repair

1. Remove as much loose grass and weeds as possible.
2. Loosen soil with renovator or rake as necessary to expose soil. Apply fertilizer.
3. Sow seed evenly, taking extra care on bare spots.
4. Firm the soil around seed with roller, packer, or your foot.
5. Keep soil moist until seed has germinated.

Special care should be taken when handling Yellow Jacket® Enhanced Seed coated products. To learn more information, visit barusa.com/professional-turf/yjsds



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