



2310 W St Rt 55 TROY  
937.335.5550

[www.andysgarden.com](http://www.andysgarden.com)

# Lawn Seeding



Grass, like any other living plant, will thrive when planted properly in the right location. Many of us think grass seed will grow by simply throwing it on the lawn and walking away. For winter seeding, this is mostly true, but for fall or spring seeding, not so. Here is a step-by-step way to successfully reseed your lawn.

## ***SPOT SEEDING BARE SPOTS***

- 1) Loosen the soil with a steel rake.
- 2) Apply seed with an applicator or by hand at the rate of 4-5 seeds per inch. (Freeze grass seed overnight for faster germination).
- 3) Dampen down daily until seed germinates. (A light application of straw is optional).
- 4) After germination, deep water the new grass once a week, to the equivalent of 1 inch during dry periods.
- 5) Mow as soon as new grass reaches 2 inches or more.

## ***SEEDING NEW OR RESEEDING EXISTING LAWN***

***Let's discuss some "Don'ts" before we cover the "Do's"....***

***Don't*** rototill the soil. This process causes the soil to settle unevenly, wakes up thousands of weed seeds that will compete with the new grass, and it's a lot of unnecessary work.

***Don't*** apply topsoil to overall area unless you spread it to a depth of 4 - 6 inches to the entire area.

***Don't*** even read any further unless you can keep new seed dampened down daily until germination (assuming no rain on a given day). If this is not possible for you, try winter seeding.

***Now the Do's - please read carefully....***

***Do*** kill all existing vegetation in area to be reseeded. Weeds and other vegetation should be watered will prior to application of herbicide. Healthy weeds die faster. Old lawn should be 2 - 3 inches tall when treating, especially true with nutgrass.

***Do*** freeze your grass seed overnight. It can stay frozen until you're ready to apply.

***Do*** wait until old lawn starts to turn yellow or brown. Then use a verti-slicer or verti-cutter. Move machine east to west or north to south, do not criss-cross. For sloped areas, move machine horizontally across slope. Slits should be 1/2 inch deep in soil.

***Do*** fertilize with a starter type fertilizer (example: 9-18-18). Do not mix seed and fertilizer together in the same applicator.

**Do** put grass seed down (4-5 seeds per inch) immediately after using machine. Water well so seed moves down into grooves. Straw is not necessary.

**Do** dampen seed down daily (assuming rainless days) to keep seed moist until germination. Then water once weekly to the equivalent of 1 inch of water and/or rain. Continue to water as above during hot, dry weather.

**Do** mow your new grass as soon as it reaches a 2 1/4 inches in height. Mow at 2 inches and mow often. The more cuttings, the quicker the new grass matures. You will get a few new weeds, but do not apply weed killer until you've given the new grass at least 3 cuttings.

**Do** use good quality grass seed. If you're going to do all the above steps, don't lessen your results with so-called bargain seeds. Check the seed label for purity, weed seed content, and inert ingredients.

### **LAWN NOTES:**

1) The best two feedings for your lawn (all types).

Early September	-	high nitrogen
Late November	-	high phosphorus

2) Leave grass clippings. They continue to feed your lawn. Exception: very tall clippings due to rainy periods. Collect those that would clump and smother grass plants.

3) Choose grass varieties that fit your maintenance schedule.

Bluegrass	-	high maintenance
Perennial grass	-	medium maintenance
Turf-type fescue	-	low maintenance

4) Winter seeding is a great way to go if you can't fall seed. In late January or early February, go out and remove any fallen leaves and twigs from areas to be reseeded. Apply your seed to those areas (4-5 seeds per inch) and go back and watch TV. Freezing and thawing occurs, causing the seed to have a natural seed bed. Seed will germinate in spring when soil warms to proper temperature.

5) Straw helps to hold moisture around seed, but straw does not replace moisture. You will have to water daily. If you decide on straw, a bale should cover 2,000 square feet. This is a very light application. If done according to above no straw removal is necessary as the straw will decompose by itself.



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one flower at a time.*