

How To Over-Seed a Lawn

1. Lawn Preparation

Mow the lawn down to a height of 1” to 1.5”, removing the clippings. De-thatch the lawn thoroughly to open up the lawn for the seed, raking up the grass and any debris left on the lawn. Once you’ve removed the thatched material you should core aerate or have this done professionally. A core aerator can be rented from your local lawn and garden shop. Your lawn will look pretty beaten up!

- A. Remove the “dirt plugs” **only** if you have clay soil and are planning on adding mulch or an organic material to help get oxygen to the roots and build your soil.
- B. The more you open up the soil, the better the new seedlings will establish.
- C. Apply 1/2 inch of mulch to the surface of the thatch lawn.
- D. Rake a starter-type fertilizer into the mulch prior to seeding.

2. Seeding

Apply your seed mix at the specified recommended rate at the bottom of this sheet. Apply one half the recommended seed walking back and forth. Apply the other half perpendicular to the first half.

3. Watering

Keep the lawn moist until germination is complete. Keep the seed damp but not soaking wet. A new planting should never be allowed to dry out. After your grass has established (usually 3-6 weeks or after the first mowing), you can reduce the watering frequency, but for longer periods of time. This infrequent, deep watering encourages the grass to produce a deeper root system, which increases the drought tolerance and need for fertilizers.

4. Mowing

When your lawn has reached about 3 inches tall, mow off about 1 inch. This mowing will encourage your lawn to begin filling in to produce a thick, healthy turf. Never mow off more than 1/3 of the leaf surface at one time. Maintain your lawn at the recommended height for the variety of grass (See chart below).

5. Weed Control

Weed seed is present in the soil. If weeds sprout in your new stand of grass, wait until after the third mowing before applying a weed killer. New grass plants are easily killed by applying weed killer before the lawn is mature enough. Apply a weed killer approved for the type of weeds you are trying to kill. Contact your local farm store or dealer for recommendations.

6. Fertilizing

For a faster establishment and a thicker lawn, fertilize your lawn 4-6 weeks after seeding. A spring, summer and fall fertilization should be part of your yearly lawn care. We use the major holidays as a guide— Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor day. A pre-emergent can be used. Check with your local farm store or dealer for recommendations.

Basic Mix Types	Over-Seeding Rate per 1000 sq. ft.	New Lawn Seeding Rate per 1000 sq. ft.	Mowing Height for your lawn Spring-Summer	Late Fall Mow Height Prevents disease	Mow Frequency
Kentucky Bluegrass	3-5 lbs.	5-7 lbs.	2-2.5”	1.5-2”	1-2 x weekly
Perennial ryegrass	5-7 lbs.	7-9 lbs.	2-3	1-2”	Weekly
Shady Mix	5-7 lbs.	7-9 lbs.	1-3”	1”	Weekly

How To Plant a New Lawn

1. Lawn Preparation

Before planting, you may want to spray for weeds and allow weeds and other vegetation to die. Remove dead vegetation from the planting site with a non-selective herbicide such as Round-Up or by hand pulling.

- A. Till the site to a depth of 4-6 inches.
 - Add any soil amendments and till them in now. Ensure the mulch you use is “weed free”.
 - Clay or sandy soils may require you to add mulch to provide a good seeding bed.
- B. Apply a starter fertilizer as recommended by the manufacturer.
- C. Rake and level the area, filling in any low spots. Roll and water the area to settle the soil.
- D. The soil should be moist not saturated.

2. Seeding

Apply your seed mix at the specified recommended rate at the bottom of this sheet. Apply one half the recommended seed walking back and forth. Apply the other half perpendicular to the first half. Spread a light 1/4” mulch over the seed. Lightly rake or roll the seed into the soil.

- Water the entire area lightly to settle the soil and ensure good seed to soil contact.

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How to Plant a New Pasture

1. Site Preparation

Before planting, remove existing vegetation from the planting site with a non-selective herbicide such as Round-Up. Till the site with a plow, roto-tiller or disc to a depth of 6 inches. Level and firm the area and apply a starter fertilizer. Rake smooth, filling in any low spots. Roll or water the area to settle the soil.

2. Seeding

Apply seed at the recommended rate for the area and type of hay/pasture you are establishing.

A. Broadcast - After broadcasting the seed, should roll or press the seed into the soil ensuring good seed to soil contact. Using a piece of old chain link fencing, heavy chain or a spring tooth, lightly rake the seed in to the soil at a depth of 1/8-1/4". Do not sow the seed deeper than 1/4".

B. Drill - Drill the seed at the recommended rate. Using rollers, press the seed firmly into the soil. Avoid sowing the seed too deeply. See above.

3. Watering

Keep the seed bed moist for 45 to 60 days, allowing the plants to completely germinate and begin their establishment.

A. It is recommended to seed early in the spring for dry-land planting. If seeded too late you may have an extremely high rate of failure.

B. Dormant planting in late fall can be utilized. Seed after the first snow fall or after the soil temperature has dropped below 55 Fahrenheit.

C. Do not allow the new planting from drying out.

D. After the plants established for 60 days, a deep watering will promote a deeper root system. This will increase the plants drought tolerance.

4. Establishment

It is recommended to keep animals off a new pasture for one year. This will allow the plants to develop a strong root structure and prevent the plants from being pulled up.

5. Grazing

If you can't wait a full year, management on your pasture is critical. Grazing can be tolerated 60 days after establishment. This allows your animals to graze only a few hours each day. Never graze the plant into the crown of the plant, as this will damage the plant.

6. Weed Control

Be aware that weed seed is present in the soil before you begin your pasture project. If weeds sprout in your new pasture, wait 45 days before applying a weed killer as new plants are easily killed by a pre-mature application. Apply a weed killer approved for pasture following all label directions.

7. Fertilizing

For faster establishment and a healthier pasture, fertilize 4-6 week after planting. A spring and fall fertilization should be a part of your yearly pasture management.

How to Overseed a Pasture

1. *Site Preparation*

Graze or mow the pasture down to a height of 6" or just above the "crown" of the plant to assure maximum soil/seed contact. Till any bare areas to loosen the soil for the seed and clean up any debris left after preparation. The more you open up the soil, the better the new seedlings will establish.

2. *Seeding*

Apply seed at the recommended rate for the type of pasture and percent of area needed to be over seeded. Example: If the recommended seeded rate for a new pasture is 45 lbs. per acre and approximately 50% of the area is bare you'll need 1/2 of the new seeding rate. We like to use this as a guide and then add an additional 10% seed due to a lack of good seed to soil contact and the typical seed mortality rate caused by wind, birds etc... Water the entire area lightly if possible to assure a good start to your pasture.

3. *Watering*

Keep the seed moist for 30-45 days, until germination is complete (rain or irrigation), keeping the seed damp but not soaking wet. A new planting should never be allowed to dry out. Infrequent, deep watering after the first 3-45 days will encourage the root system to produce a deeper root system, increasing their drought tolerance and reducing their need for fertilizer.

4. *Grazing*

Animals can be returned to the pasture 60 days after establishment. This period allows the new plants to establish and form a root system that will allow them to tolerate grazing and wear. Never graze off more than 1/2 of the plant.

5. *Weed Control*

Weed seed are disturbed and brought to the surface when you start working your pasture. If weeds sprout in your pasture, wait 30-45 days before applying a weed killer as new plants are easily killed by a premature application. Apply a weed killer approved for pastures, following all label directions.

6. *Fertilizing*

For faster establishment and a healthier pasture, fertilize 4-6 weeks after seeding. A spring and fall fertilization should be a part of your yearly pasture care.