

## TURF SEEDING GUIDE



### ***Seeding a New Lawn***

1. Add any fertilizer or soil amendments as recommended by a county agent or per a soil test.
2. Prepare the seedbed by tilling the area and raking smooth any large dirt clods or low areas.
3. Use a broadcast spreader to distribute the seed evenly over the prepared surface. Do not use a drop spreader. Set the spreader to a light setting and seed in one direction, then make another pass in the opposite direction.
4. Rake lightly to cover the seed with approximately ¼ inch of soil.
5. Firm the seedbed with a sod roller or something heavy to achieve good seed-to-soil contact.
6. Mulch with clean straw, compost, or sphagnum peat to keep the seed moist and aid germination. Straw may not be feasible in windy areas.
7. Water with a fine mist sprinkler several times daily until grass is established. Water enough so the soil does not become dry below 1 inch.
8. When the seedlings reach a height of 4", mow to 2.5-3" with a sharp mower while the grass is dry.
9. After first mowing, reduce watering to an as-needed basis.
10. Control weeds by mowing until after grass is more mature, 2-3 months. A weed and feed or other herbicide can be used as recommended by a county agent.

### ***Overseeding an Existing Lawn***

1. Mow existing lawn to a height of about 1 inch.
2. Aerate the turf by slicing, coring, spiking, or de-thatching equipment and remove debris.
3. Add any fertilizer or soil amendments as recommended by a county agent or per a soil test.
4. Rake or rough the surface, particularly on bare spots, to enhance seed-to-soil contact.
5. Spread the seed with a broadcast spreader. Small areas can be seeded by hand.
6. Drag or rake the grass to be sure the seed comes in contact with the soil. Apply a light mulch of peat or straw.
7. Water with a sprinkler 2-3 times daily until grass is established.

### ***Seeding in the Mountains***

1. Fall seedings are recommended for non-irrigated areas, as snow cover protects and provides moisture.
2. Keep the soil moist until the grass is established.
3. Use a light mulch to reduce evaporation and protect the seed.