

For example, if you have to walk the entire test plot 6 times to get the right amount of seed down with the spreader on the lowest setting... then, you need to adjust it so the seed comes out 3 times as fast (so you can do the plot in two passes, at right angles to one another).

And Watering?

Probably the single most important step in growing a lawn from seed is proper watering. The key is: frequent, light waterings. Run the sprinkler just until puddles begin to form (from two to five times a day, depending on weather and climate), until the plants get established.

Leave the Clippings?

If they're ¼" or less, okay. If you leave longer clippings on the lawn, they tend to lodge above the soil, rather than decompose and return valuable nitrogen to the soil. The resulting layer of thatch can impede water penetration, and increase disease and insect problems.

Now, ¼' isn't very much. But don't think you have to mow every other day; mulching-type mowers do a good job of chopping clippings into small bits, and blowing them down into the soil.

And How About Weeds, Disease, and Pests?

Actually, the best way to control lawn problems is to grow a thick, healthy lawn. The grass plants themselves will choke out weeds, naturally. Lawn diseases and pests tend to attack one variety of grass at a time. The best defense is to

plant a mixture of blend to obtain a broader range of disease-resistance.

Weeds, though controllable, are inevitable. There are two basic methods of control: physically pulling them out, and chemical.

Pulling weeds by hand is practical and advisable when the infested area is small. Pull them before they set seed, and be sure to remove as much of the root system of the weed as possible for most effective control.

For more serious weed-control problems, chemical solutions may be the answer. Both dry and liquid herbicides can be effective when applied correctly. Be sure to follow package directions to avoid damage to grass and ornamental plants, and injury to children and pets. Don't apply herbicide to soil just before planting new seed.

To reduce future weed problems, keep your lawn healthy with a sound program of fertilizing, watering and proper mowing. Overseeding periodically with a good quality grass seed.



#seedthedifference



Common Questions About Planting a Lawn



Planting a lawn is an investment.

As for any investment, you want the time and money you put into it to pay off. By preparing your soil properly, planting a quality seed, and following through with good maintenance practices, you can be sure to grow a lawn you can be proud of; a lush, green, healthy lawn that will thrive for many years to come.

Repair of Start Over?

As a rule of thumb, if more than half of your lawn is wither dead, bare, or in weeds, start over. If more than half is good grass, renovation is a practical choice.

Seed or Sod?

Sod is quicker, but starting a lawn from seed generally give you stronger, healthier, more long-lasting turf. Sod, essentially, is a three- to five-year old lawn that has been grown under ideal weather and soil conditions. Problems often occur because the soil in the sod layer is different from yours; grass roots may not grow beyond the sod. Or, air may become trapped between the sod layer and your soil; when roots reach this layer of air, they die. Seedling avoids these problems. It's also less expensive, and offers you a greater selection among grass varieties, allowing you to tailor your lawn to best suit your unique needs.

What Kind of Seed?

There are many types of grass, and within each type, there are many, many varieties-each with its own particular characteristics, and each

suiting to different soils, climates, and growing conditions. The choices can seem overwhelming.

Since your lawn is an investment, though, it always pays to start with the best quality seed you can afford. And there is a quality difference among lawn seed products.

It pays to choose "improved" varieties- the ones that are named- rather than common ones. They've been specially bred for better long-term performance, such as improved disease-resistance, nicer color, less maintenance, and deeper, stronger roots. Also, choose mixes and blends over single-variety products; they generally perform better in the long-run. Finally, beware of mixes that have a high proportion of "annual" types of grass; while they grow fast, they also die after one season.

Choosing the right seed for your lawn can be as easy as reading the package: Twin City Seed packages state clearly what each product is best suited for. Simply determine your needs and priorities-things like whether you're planting a new or repairing an old lawn; your growing conditions (sun or shade, wet or dry, rich or poor soil, heavy or light traffic); and your personal preferences (the "look" you want, how much time you're willing to spend taking care of it, and how much money you're willing to spend). Then, match your list to the packages. It's as easy as that!

With years of research and experience, Twin City Seed gives you the highest-quality seed

available, in the right proportions to build a healthy, long-lasting lawn.

How Much Do I Need?

It's important to spread seed at the correct rate. Spread too much seed, and you're wasting money; spread too little, and the lawn will grow up thin and weak.

The first step is to figure out how many square feet you need to seed. Then, just check the back of the package to figure out how much seed you need to cover that area.

How Do I Spread It?

Use either a broadcast or a drop-type spreader, rather than tossing it with your hands. Whichever type spreader you prefer, plant the seed in two passes: half at a time, at right angles to each other. This will give you a nice, even coverage.

Once spread, rake the seed lightly, to give it good contact with the soil... but don't cover it; seed needs light to germinate.

What Rates?

The best way to figure out the proper spreader setting is to do a test. Stake out a 100-square-foot plot-like a 10' x 10' square. Then, set your spreader on the lowest setting, and see how many times it takes to cover the whole space with the right amount of seed.