

Overseeding



WHAT IS OVERSEEDING?

- ◆ The process of transition from the permanent warm season turf to the temporary cool season turf.
- ◆ Warm season turf goes dormant during the cool winter months requiring us to seed a winter lawn.
- ◆ Rye grass is the most commonly used variety. Perennial Rye is more desirable than the less expensive Annual Rye option.
- ◆ Temperature, preparation, water and fertilizer are all critical to the success of the seed's germination.



WHAT IS THE CORRECT TEMPERATURE?

- ◆ Seeding begins when night time temps are below 60° and day time temps are below 90°.
- ◆ An average daily temp Below 70° is ideal. Historically, this occurs around October 18th.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE SEED?

- ◆ A good seed bed requires the canopy of the warm season turf to be opened, allowing seed to soil contact while letting sun light through.
- ◆ Several weeks before seeding, reduce watering by 50% & lower mow height by 1/2" each week until the turf is around 1" in height.
- ◆ Check irrigation system for leaks and make repairs.

HOW MUCH SEED?

- ◆ Rye is typically applied at a rate of 10-12 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet of area.
- ◆ Divide the seed in half & spread in two directions to prevent striping.

HOW MUCH WATER?

- ◆ Keeping the seed moist for 7-10 days is critical to the germination process.
- ◆ Water 4-5 times per day for short periods of time until germination is achieved.
- ◆ If water begins to pool reduce the run time.

DO I NEED TO FERTILIZE?

- ◆ After the seed has fully germinated, apply a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 ft².
- ◆ Apply fertilizer as needed throughout the winter.
- ◆ Iron is commonly used to achieve dark green color.

