

How to Seed a Lawn

The best time to seed a lawn in Minnesota is between August 15 and September 10. This is when most grasses germinate in nature. Most annual weeds do not germinate after August 15. A lawn seeded during this period of late summer can become established before winter and be growing in the spring before weeds start to germinate. The second best time is early spring, as soon as the ground can be worked.

When seeding, divide the seeds into two equal lots and sow it in two directions. If seeding on a slope, run the tines of a mulch fork across the slope to create small ridges in the soil. This helps hold the seeds in place if heavy rains occur before germination. Most mechanical seeders have built-in cultipackers that leave about 10 percent of the seed showing. If a mechanical seeder is not used, roll the seedbed to ensure seed contact with the soil. Water lightly after seeding.

Seeding costs less than sodding and can give the homeowner a great feeling of accomplishment. It ordinarily takes 6 – 12 weeks to establish a healthy lawn from seed, but it usually takes almost a full growing season before the lawn can be considered well-established and ready for extensive traffic.

Seed Selection

These seed varieties (and more) are available at any of Bachman's six stores.

Kentucky Bluegrass	Fine Fescue	Perennial Ryegrass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does poorly in shade • Forms a beautiful, dense, soft turf • Spreads vigorously by rhizomes (underground stems) • Mows cleanly and easily • Adapted to a wide variety of conditions • Goes dormant during dry periods of year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has excellent shade tolerance • Adapted to droughty, sandy soils • Mixes well with Kentucky Bluegrass • Adapted to low maintenance lawns • Has narrow blades which can be difficult to mow • Growth can be bunchy due to minimal spreading ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germinates and becomes established quickly & vigorously • Is very wear tolerant • Mixes well with Kentucky Bluegrass • Bunchy growth is prevalent if not highly maintained • Many varieties are not cold-tolerant enough for Minnesota • Adapted only to high-maintenance conditions

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