

# Lawn Establishment and Care Guide

## When to Plant:

Spring (August to November) and autumn (March to May) are ideal sowing seasons. In the warmer northern areas of New Zealand, lawn seed can be sown all year round, although germination will be slower during the colder months. Seeds will generally germinate between 3-7 days during warmer months, but can take up to 20 days during the colder times of the year.

## Site Preparation & Sowing Seeded Lawns

### Step 1 : Preparing your ground

All seed should be sown on a well prepared seed bed free from perennial weeds (e.g. couch). We advice you spray with a Roundup type product 5-7 days before you start your seed bed preparation. Preparation is the key to success.

### Step 2 : Preparing your seedbed

When preparing your seedbed ensure when finished you have a firm and fine seed bed that is level. We suggest you incorporate a starter fertiliser while giving it the final working.

### Step 3 : Sowing your seedbed

Sow you seed at between 25 - 30 grams per sq metre. We recommend that you split the total seed requirement into two half's (12 - 15 grams per sq metre). Apply the first half followed by the second half going on right angles to the first, this will ensure better coverage. You may have to use a thin layer of top soil at this stage.

### Step 4 : Watering your new lawn

Watering should start straight after sowing we recommend two light watering every day until the seed is visible one morning and one evening is best. Once struck reduce watering to one per day (evening). While watering ensure you avoid over watering and ponding.



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## Step 5 : Weed Control in your new lawn

Weeds will generally require a chemical application to control them. Don't spray for at least 2 months after sowing – just weed by hand if possible. There is a wide range of chemicals for this job. Ensure the chemical is suitable for young establishing lawns. Care must be taken when disposing of the treating lawn clippings. They are not suitable for use as compost.

## Step 6 : Mowing A New Lawn

Do not mow the grass until it is at least 7-10cm in height. It is important that your lawnmower blades are nice and sharp as a blunt lawnmower will drag your new lawn out by the roots. Set the mower high, at about 5 cm, for the first cut. Use a catcher to prevent the clipping smothering the new plants. Gradually lower the blades over the next several cuts to until they are about 2.5cm. This is the best height to maintain for your lawn. We recommend that you fertilise your lawn for the first time after your first mow.

## Step 7 : Fertiliser

Fertiliser is important to maintain the growth and colour of your new lawn. We recommend that you use a "little but often" approach to this job. We can recommend a wide range of lawn specific fertilisers for you to use..



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