

Overseeding



What's overseeding?

Overseeding is adding new grass seed to existing lawn to thicken turf, crowd out weeds, and fill in bare spots.



When to Overseed

Any time during the growing season when you have a bare spot of soil. Keep the seeds moist to germinate. The best time is mid-August through mid-September.

How to Overseed

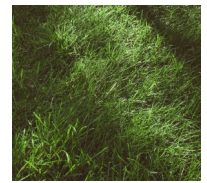
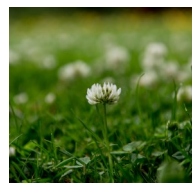
- Can be spread by hand or with a broadcast spreader. For best results, spread $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the seeding rate (lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.) recommended for new lawn on the bag. Some bags will provide an overseeding rate.
- Further divide the amount of grass seed and spread half the amount walking north to south, then spread the second half east to west for more even coverage.
- Ensure good seed to soil contact by lightly rolling the area, walking on it, or gently watering it.
- Keep soil lightly watered for the next three weeks. Make sure the soil is moist but not soggy.
- Spread straw over the seed if seeding a large bare spot to help hold moisture and keep soil from eroding.

Where to Overseed

Grass needs 6 hours of daily sunlight to thrive. In areas of your yard that receive less than 6 hours of sunlight, try planting shade tolerant native groundcovers.

What Grass Seed to Use

- An ideal low-maintenance mix will contain roughly 60-70% fescues and 30-40% perennial ryegrasses with at least two varieties of each species.
- Mix in 5-10% white clover to add food for pollinators and to add nitrogen to the soil.
- Look for and select “endophyte enhanced” for natural insect resistance.
- Keep Kentucky Bluegrass to 10% or less. Kentucky Bluegrass is more likely to develop thatch than other varieties of grass.



Thatch

Thatch is a dense layer of dead grass stems and blades that slows down water, air, and nutrients reaching the soil below. Some grasses naturally develop thatch over time but any grass can develop thatch if it is regularly overwatered or over fertilized. Remove thatch buildup with a special dethatching rake.