



Starting a Lawn from Seed

1. **Kill Existing Weeds:** Spray the entire area with a weed killer containing glyphosate such as Hi Yield Killzall. This will kill vegetation without contaminating the soil. Repeat 3 or 4 times at 1- to 2-week intervals to kill any new weeds that sprout, or remove all existing weeds with a hoe, then water. Wait 1 to 2 weeks for new weeds to come up and then use Killzall again. Repeat 3 to 4 times. Do not use any other weed killers or pre-emergent granules as the residues left in the soil will kill or damage new grass.
2. **Prepare the Soil:** Till the soil 4 to 6 inches deep. Add topsoil to level and fill in low spots. Work into the soil a 2 inch layer of peat moss or composted cotton burrs, condition and aerate. If the soil is clay like or hard, till in 100 lbs of gypsum per 1000 square feet of lawn area to keep the soil from packing. Soil conditioners must be added now as they cannot be introduced once the lawn is established.
3. **Rake:** Rake ground smooth and free of clods, foreign matter and other debris. Water gently to settle soil. If the ground settles unevenly, add more topsoil to fill in low spots. Water again.
4. **Fertilize:** Add a high-phosphorous fertilizer such as Ferti-lome New Lawn Starter. This will encourage vigorous root development essential to the growth of the grass. You may also add sulphur to correct alkaline soil native to West Texas.
5. **Plant:** Scatter seed with a hand-held seeder for even, efficient results. Calculate the number of pounds of seed required to plant the entire areas using recommended rates. Divide the seed into two equal lots. Seed the entire area at half the recommended rate with the first lot in rows going East and West. Then reseed with the second lot in rows running North and South. Touch up edges and corners by hand. Mixing Bermuda seed with some sand will help to make it spread evenly. Cover the planted area with a light topping ($\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick) of peat moss.
6. **Water, Water, Water:** When planting grass seed, the soil must be kept moist. Water with a gentle spray to a depth of 4 to 6 inches immediately after planting. Then water 2 to 3 times daily, as needed, to keep the soil moist. **NEVER LET THE SOIL DRY OUT COMPLETELY** or the germinating seed will die. Once the lawn is established, increase the depth of watering and decrease the frequency.
7. **Mowing:** When the new lawn reaches a height of about 3 inches, it's time to mow. Mow in alternate directions each time to avoid compacting the soil. Do not mow wet grass.
8. **Feed:** Fertilize again with Ferti-lome New Lawn Starter the first mowing. One bag covers 5000 square feet. Water it in. Fertilize every 6 to 8 weeks thereafter with Ferti-lome SouthWest Greenmaker (with iron, sulphur, zinc and magnesium) which helps avoid "feast" and "famine" feeding since it contains both fast- and slow-release nitrogen sources. Apply Ferti-lome Winterizer (with iron, sulphur, zinc and magnesium) in late fall. This fall feeding will help produce hardening of late growth, resistance to cold, and a vigorous root system in cold weather areas.
9. **Weeding:** Don't use weed killers for the first year as new grass is highly sensitive. If weeds should appear, pull them while they are very young. Never allow weeds to mature and go to seed.
10. **Controlling Insects and Disease:** If pest problems show up after planting, bring in a sample of the insects and damaged grass to our Certified Nursery Professionals for diagnosis and advice.