

# How to Plant Mayberry Fescue

September – October is the best time to plant a fescue lawn in the South. The best time to plant a new lawn in the North is March – May.

## Seeding a New Lawn

Optimum air temperatures for tall fescue germination are 68 to 77°F and soil temperatures greater than 60°F.

- Kill all weeds by spraying the area with Compare•N•Save Grass & Weed Killer two weeks before planting.
- Mix in a layer of soil conditioner one inch thick. Till the soil thoroughly to a depth of six inches.
- Rake the area smooth, removing rocks, clumps and grassy debris.
- Roll the area with a water-filled roller to reveal low spots.
- Fill low spots with soil.
- Scatter 5 to 8 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet.
- Cover very thinly with wheat straw (1 bale per 1000 square feet).

## Overseeding an Existing Lawn

- If the lawn is covered **50% or less** with healthy fescue, use a rented verticutter (sometimes called a dethatcher). Adjust the verticutter blades to just touch the top of the soil.
- If the lawn is covered **50% or more** with healthy fescue, use a rented core aerator. Stop when you have 10 or more aerator holes per square foot.
- Just before seeding, lower your mower one notch below your normal mowing height and mow the lawn. This removes the grass canopy and helps seed fall directly onto the soil.
- Spread 3 to 5 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet. Drag the area with a carpet or section of chain link fence to crumble aerator plugs and cover the seed with soil.

## Watering Schedule after Seeding

- Set out several paper cups while you irrigate to help determine how long it takes to apply an inch of water.
- Apply one inch of water immediately after planting.
- Apply only enough water daily (or as regulations allow) to prevent the top one-half inch of soil from drying until seedlings are 1.5 inches tall.
- After that, apply one-fourth inch of water every third day for nine days.
- Next, apply one-half inch of water every fifth day for ten days.
- After this establishment period, apply one inch of water per week for the rest of the growing season.
- There is no need to water if rainfall supplies the correct amount.

## Weed Killers

- Compare•N•Save Grass & Weed Killer can be used to kill existing weeds one week before seeding.
- Do not use a pre-emergent herbicide, a broadleaf weed killer or a “weed and feed” product before seeding or within six weeks after seeding.

## Fertilizing Southern Lawns

- Use a starter fertilizer at planting using the label rates.
- Fertilize again in mid-November, using any brand turf fertilizer.
- Fertilize again February, using any brand turf fertilizer.
- Fertilize again mid-April, using any brand turf fertilizer.

## Fertilizing Northern Lawns

- Use a starter fertilizer at planting using the label rates.
- Fertilize again 6 – 8 weeks later.
- Fertilize a third time 6 – 8 weeks later.