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Spring Lawn Renewal Needed

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yard/garden
radio briefs

Renovating and repairing home lawns, including overseeding, will be necessary this spring because many lawns are in bad shape from lack of moisture. University of Minnesota extension horticulturists say turf damage must be repaired at this time to prevent further damage and to keep disease organisms from infiltrating.

Bare spots in lawns can result from dog excretions or winter injury. In either case, reseeding is necessary. Rake off the debris on and around the spot and loosen the top soil with a cultivator.

In the case of dog damage, heavily water the area to remove the excess nitrogen that burned the lawn. Seed with the appropriate grass and keep the area moist for at least fourteen days to insure good germination.

For sunny areas, mixtures of two or more Kentucky bluegrasses are recommended. In the shade, creeping red fescue survives best. There are many lawn grasses to choose from. Common Kentucky bluegrasses are suitable for average lawns. Plant creeping red fescue in dry spots. They should be mowed at a one and one-half to two inch height during the cool weather and two and one-half inches at warmer temperatures. These varieties require less watering, mowing and fertilizing than do the elite types. Fertilize with four pounds of nitrogen per thousand-square feet each year with one pound applications at your first spring mowing, three weeks later, and around August 20th and September 5th.

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