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YARD 'N' GARDEN

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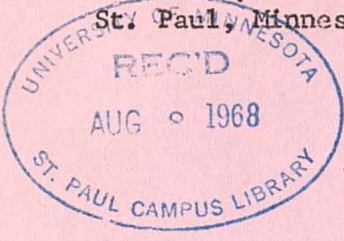


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SEEDING A NEW LAWN

The best time to seed a lawn in Minnesota is between August 15 and September 15, and spring is the next best time.

Proper preparation before planting minimizes later problems. Grade the subsoil to create good drainage, allowing at least one foot drop per 100 feet. After grading, add fertile top soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.

Have the soil tested and fertilize the top soil according to recommendations. If recommendations aren't available, apply 0-20-20 or 0-20-0 at the rate of 20 to 30 pounds per 1,000 square feet and till it into the soil.

Before seeding, roll the topsoil lightly to show surface irregularities. Smoothe these with a rake. Apply one-half pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to serve as nourishment for young developing grass plants.

Select grass seed according to growing conditions. Use a mixture of 60 to 80 percent Kentucky bluegrass with 20 to 40 percent creeping red fescue for sunny locations. For shady areas, use 60 to 80 percent creeping red fescue and 20 to 40 percent Kentucky bluegrass. Sow at a rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Remember that a lawn is a long term investment, so buy good seed. Avoid cheap lawn seed which contains a large percentage of annual grasses.

Seed your lawn on a calm day. Distribute the seed evenly and rake the surface lightly. After seeding, cover the area with a loose mulch that's free of weed seed to conserve moisture.

Water the newly seeded lawn lightly two or three times each day, keeping it moist. As the lawn develops, it should receive more water applied less frequently. Eventually, it should receive an inch of water applied once per week.

Mow the newly seeded lawn to 2½ inches when the blades of the grass start to bend over. Mow the second cutting at the 2 inch level and the third at 1½ inches. Use a sharp mower--it causes less damage to the grass plants.

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