

HOW TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Reynolds Farms

*A Full Service Nursery
& Country Garden
Center*



An attractive lawn can serve many functions. It increases the value of your home, provides an area for outdoor activity, supplies oxygen to breathe, and prevents soil erosion.

*To create a lawn that
is both pleasing to
look at and functional,
follow these steps:*

Lawn Renovation. Fall is the best time of year to renovate your lawn. Soil temperatures are still warm enough to promote good seed germination and root development. The cooler air temperatures help to reduce watering needs.

Analyze Your Soil. How would you like to optimize your lawn and gardens growth and health? Send a soil sample to the [UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab](#). The soil test results will guide you in the right direction to have a healthy yard with a minimum impact on our environment.

Amend Your Soil. All lawns can benefit from the addition of organic matter. We recommend Espoma Organic Lawn food. This fertilizer is a slow release formula. It will not burn or leach. Because it is slow release it will keep your lawn green up to

three times longer than conventional fertilizers.

Use Quality Grass Seed. It is best to use a mixture of turf grasses in your lawn. This will help with insect, disease and weed resistance. The best seeds to use in our area are Ryegrass, Bluegrass, and Fescue. The particular blend to use would depend on the light exposure your lawn receives. See a staff member for assistance.

FALL LAWN MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

- A.** In September/October an organic fertilizer should be applied. We recommend **Espoma Organic Lawn Food**. This can be used on new lawns or established turf.
- B.** In October/November soil amendments such as lime or sulfur should be added if indicated by a soil test.
- C.** Apply a weed control if necessary. We recommend **Bonide WeedBeater**. Also, check for grubs. If necessary, apply a 24-hr grub control
- D.** Follow the "How to Seed a Lawn" section on the back of this flyer.

MOWING AND WATERING YOUR LAWN

The ideal height of turfgrass lawns is 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches. Do not allow grass to grow more than ½ inch above desired height.

Mow frequently during the growing season.

Water is one of the basic requirements for the growth of grass. The question of when to water and how much to water is one of the most frequently asked. Too many variables exist for there to be a set answer to the question of watering. These variables include season temperatures, the soil type you have, humidity, wind, frequency of rain, and maintenance practices. The following guidelines are suggested:

- Water your lawn when the soil begins to dry out. This can be signaled by a change in the color of your lawn, or from the loss of resilience.
- To keep grass roots growing deeply, water to a depth of 6-8 inches. This translates to about an inch of water over the whole lawn.
- Early morning is the ideal time to water. This eliminates evaporation during the heat of the day and exposing your lawn to fungus by watering at night.

The best guideline of all, though, for when to water is: Water when the lawn needs it!

HOW TO SEED A LAWN

After analyzing and amending your soil follow these steps:

- **Rake and Level the Seedbed.** Use a steel rake and remove all stones.
- **Sow the Seed.** Use a spreader for even coverage. Small areas can be done by hand.
- **Rake in the Seed.** To ensure good contact between the soil and seed, turn your rake over and lightly 'swish' the rake over the seeded area
- **Apply a covering of Chopped Hay.** To protect your seed and allow it to retain moisture, a light covering is advisable. It should be thin enough to expose some of the seedbed, never completely cover the area.
- **Roll the area** with a water filled roller. We can let you borrow one for 24 hours at no charge.

Water Thoroughly. Improper watering is probably the number one cause of newly seeded lawns to fail. For seeds to

germinate, the top layer of soil must stay constantly moist. Soak the area to a depth of 6 inches after sowing, then lightly water as often as necessary until young grass is established.

An option to seeding your lawn is to have sod installed. This would still require proper soil preparation and watering. Please see a staff member for further information.



Reynolds Farms Nursery

23 Richards Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06854

(203) 866-5757

ReynoldsFarms@optonline.net

