



Water/Mowing/Fertilizer Guide for SEED

Seeding (Phase 1) (Weeks 1-4)

Recommended amount of Turf Saver RTF seed and Shade Savant seed to spread: 6-8 pounds for every 1,000 square feet. Recommended amount for Turf Blue Pro seed to spread: 2 pounds for every 1,000 square feet. Recommended amount for Turf Star RPR seed to spread is 8 pounds for every 1,000 square feet.

For best results seed should be incorporated into ½" of the soil AND use a Straw blanket.

Fertilizer Instructions:

Spread Starter Fertilizer (18-24-12) before you spread seed. Use 5.5 lbs for every 1,000 sqft.

Water Instructions:

Water in a way that keeps the soil moist continuously, which mean water light and frequent 2-3x a day for the first 2 weeks and 1 -2 times a day for weeks 3 and 4. The soil does NOT need to be deeply saturated. Best time to water is early in the morning, late morning, late afternoon or early evening to avoid evaporation. DO NOT WATER IN THE LATE EVENINGS AFTER WEEK TWO.

Mowing Instructions:

Mow as soon as the first few blades reach over about 2" and mow at 2". After the first three or four mowings you can adjust the height between 2"-3".*

*DO NOT mow if ground is saturated and doing so will leave tracks or footprints. Also, it's a good rule of thumb that you should not mow off more than 1/3 of the total height of the grass.

Establishment/Grow-In (Phase 2) (Weeks 5-11)

Fertilizer Instructions:

Spread Starter Fertilizer (18-24-12) after 6 weeks of germination date. Recommended amount.*

Water Instructions:

¼" to ½" every week**

Mowing Instructions:

Mow at 2" until after the first three or four mowings then adjust the height between 2"-3".***

*Rec. amt for Starter: 5.5 lbs/1,000 sq ft .

**Water instructions based on no rain, wind, excessive heat and/or drought. Also, do not let the grasses wilt in the establishment phases. If wilting occurs then more watering is necessary.

***It's a good rule of thumb that you shouldn't mow off more than 1/3 of the total height of the grass.

Maintenance (Phase 3) (Weeks 12+)

Fertilizer Instructions:

See 'Fertilizer Guide.'

Water Instructions:

½" every week during weeks 12-24, then 1 – 1.5" every other week (or more frequent IF wilting occurs.) *

Mowing Instructions:

Mow at 2"-3" **

*Water instructions based on no rain, wind, excessive heat and/or drought. If wilting occurs then more watering is necessary.

**It's a good rule of thumb that you shouldn't mow off more than 1/3 of the total height of the grass.

Fertilizer Guide

Seeding – Phase 1 (Week 1)

STARTER FERTILIZER (18-24-12 /N-P-K) - For use at time of seeding, preferably before the seed is spread, but you can apply afterwards if necessary. This fertilizer helps to stabilize the seed and begins blade and root development. This Starter Fertilizer will last for 6 weeks.

Establishment/Grow-In – Phase 2 (Week 6)

STARTER FERTILIZER (18-24-12 /N-P-K) – Use after the first 6 weeks have passed since the seed was spread and the Starter Fertilizer had first been applied. It will last for another 6 weeks. This helps with root development and overall vigor.



Maintenance Program – 4 Step Lawn Fertilization Program (Week 12+)

PRE-EMERGENT FERTILIZER (15-0-5 /N-P-K) – For crabgrass and weed control. It can be applied in early April to mid-May.

POST-EMERGENT FERTILIZER (19-0-6 /N-P-K) – For broadleaf control. It can be applied mid-May to late June.

GRUB CONTROL FERTILIZER (20-0-5 /N-P-K) – For grub prevention and control. It can be applied late June to early August.

WINTERIZER FERTILIZER (32-0-6 /N-P-K) – Helps prepare your lawn for the winter. It can be applied mid-Sept to late Nov.

Maintenance Program Calendar:

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
	Step 1: Pre-Emergent							
		Step 2: Post-Emergent						
			Step 3: Grub					
						Step 4: Winterizer		

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

~ Depending on application timing, allow a minimum of 6 weeks between applications.

~ Starter Fertilizer is very important to the success of your newly seeded lawn in the first 3 months. From then on, depending where you fall on the calendar year, follow a normal fertilizer maintenance program.

~ These are general guidelines to follow. Weather conditions would influence how closely to follow our steps.

SEEDING TIPS:

1. Ideal time for seeding is in the spring and fall. Avoid seeding in the summer months.
2. With new lawns, whenever possible have rich top soil that is graded, raked, then dampened, and spread Starter Fertilizer first before seeding.
3. If overseeding with an existing lawn, mow area to 1 to 1.5" to reduce competition from established grasses, bag the clippings, aerate the area extremely well, then seed.¹ Do NOT apply starter fertilizer until after the new seed germinates. If you apply the starter fertilizer earlier, you are giving the existing grass a competitive edge, making it harder for the new seed to establish and compete.
4. Apply seed with a drop seeder, slit seeder, or a power overseeder and make several passes over the lawn in different directions to insure uniform seeding.²
5. For best results on a new lawn (bare dirt), lay down straw blankets over the newly spread starter fertilizer and seed and use 40 staples per blanket.
6. After seeding, roll the lawn with a light roller to insure seed-soil contact.³ (optional)
7. When watering, use a rain gauge or some container with straight sides (like a tuna can) to measure your sprinkler's output. A common mistake is overestimating the amount of water being supplied by your sprinkler. Measure to be sure.
8. Water early in the morning, especially during the summer.
9. Avoid watering established lawns in the evening. However, water late day and early morning when overseeding to germinate seed.
10. **Pull the straw blankets off a couple of days after the seed germinates. Its sole purpose is to help the germination process, retain moisture, and keep the wild animals from eating the seed. If kept on too long it will inhibit the growth of the grass. We cannot stress this enough.**
11. Make sure your newly seeded lawn (first 4 weeks) has enough moisture to survive hot, dry or windy days.
12. Depending on weather conditions you can adjust how many times you water and how much.
13. Do not 'drown' your lawn. If you do, you will have a lawn with a shallow root system that is susceptible to grubs and heat/drought stress.
14. Make sure you do not have heavy traffic (kids and/or pets) on your newly seeded lawn for the first 4 - 5 months.
15. Make sure your lawnmower has sharp blades.
16. Mow at a consistent height year-round between 2"-3".
17. DO NOT mow if ground is saturated and doing so will leave tracks or footprints.
18. It's a good rule of thumb that you shouldn't mow off more than 1/3 of the total height of the grass.
19. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn as they will add fertilizer to the turf and enrich your soil.

¹ Purdue Extension – 'Seeding a Turf Area in the Spring'

² Purdue Extension – 'Seeding a Turf Area in the Spring'

³ Purdue Extension – 'Seeding a Turf Area in the Spring'