

Western Garden Centers - Information Handout

Courtesy of Central Garden & Pet Supply, Rex Buys, & Western Garden Centers

New Lawn Planting Instructions

April 2020

Seed Coverage: Our turfgrass seed packages all suggest the coverage per pound of seed. Multiply length by width for the square footage of a rectangle. Multiply length by width and divide by 2 for a triangle. Multiple the radius by 3.14 for a circle. Combine methods for an irregular shape. Better results come using ideal coverage rather than minimum coverage.

Preparation: Try to create a planting bed of 6 to 8 inches of well draining fertile soil. If topsoil is added, till it into the native soil below so the planting bed is blended rather than layered. Rake off large rocks and debris. Contour as desired. Blend our 16-16-8, Fertilome New Lawn Fertilizer, or Dr. Earth Lawn Fertilizer into the planting bed. The soil should be neither compacted or fluffy. A final raking will create furrows into which the seed can firmly lodge.

Sowing: Using a spreader (whirlybird type works well) spread half of the seed walking in one directions, and the second half walking in the other direction. Don't waste your time and seed by sowing on a windy day.

Topdressing: Not a necessity, but very helpful. A light covering of peat moss or Black Forest mulch (up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, not more) helps create uniform water content for the newly germinating seed. Topdressings also help hide the seed from hungry quail and mourning doves.

Water: Hopefully your irrigation system is installed before the seeding process. The roots of newly germinating seed must not dry completely out. They will be about the same length below the soil as the new blade is above the soil. Water lightly as often as necessary the first few weeks. Gradually increase the amount applied and increase the interval as the lawn matures.

Always: Follow current label instructions of any pesticide used, as label changes occur and must control application procedures. This or any other instructions must be adjusted/disregarded so application conforms with the current pesticide container label.