

Creating a Lawn 101

Seeding a new lawn is demanding on your time, but is not difficult if you know what steps to take. There are many different types of grass seed to choose from. When selecting a lawn seed do not go by price alone or you will have a poor lawn, I guarantee it. The basic grasses to choose from are fescue, rye, and blue grass.

Fescue is typically one of the cheaper grasses. It is a clumping grass so it will not fill in the gaps in your lawn very well. It is more drought tolerant than blue grass or rye. Rye grass is used a lot in sports fields. It fills in gaps well, but, unfortunately, it seems to winter kill badly at times and doesn't like our cold wet summers. Blue grass is more expensive than the other two. Blue grass will fill in the gaps and winters over well in our climate, but it is not as drought tolerant as fescue. There are many varieties of each grass type and each variety has its own unique characteristics, disease and fungal resistance, color, annual or perennial, days to germination, and drought tolerance. It is important to do some research so that you will have the kind of lawn that you want and that will do well in your yard. The best choice is to choose a seed mix with a broad range of good quality blue grass, fescue, and rye grasses.

After you have chosen the type of seed that you want then it is time to prepare your yard. Allow a minimum of 3-4 inches of topsoil and make sure the area is sloped for proper drainage. Next apply a high phosphorus potash fertilizer. Then lay down the seed. Rake the seed and the fertilizer into the soil. Once the seed gets wet the first time you must keep it wet until it has established. If it dries out it will die very quickly in the first couple of months. If you want to have a nice lawn then you will need to fertilize lots, 3-6 times per year, and water consistently.

And remember, if you don't want to go through the waiting period for grass seed you could also lay down turf. Come see us and we can help you decide which is the best option for you.