

Turfgrass Seed

Objective: to explain and demonstrate the correct way to prepare and apply turfgrass seed.

Training Materials: seed, core sampler, rototiller, rake, spreader/seed drill/sprayer & hydroseeder, PPE, ballast roller.

Lesson: Discuss what PPE should be worn when seeding.

If sown too early in the season, the soil is too cool and seed will not germinate. Turfgrass seed can be applied when soil temperatures reach 15 C – ideally mid-May to mid-June. However, the best time to apply is in mid-August to mid-September when the soil is warm and the nights are cool.

Using the core sampler, test soil for pH and nutrient shortages. This will help determine the amendments that need to be added, as well as what fertilizer will be best for the soil.

Prepare the area for seeding by removing debris and existing grass, plants and weeds with a hard rake. Spread 3-5 cm of Triplemix® or other amendment determined by soil test and rototill in. Spread fertilizer that was also determined by testing the soil.

Rake the soil to create a level grade with a fine surface. Remove rocks and debris.

Apply the seed at the rate listed on the grass seed bag. Seed can be applied in several different ways depending upon the size and topography of the site.

Broadcast seeding – small areas can be broadcast by hand, for larger spaces use a fertilizer spreader. Apply in two passes at right angles, using half the application rate. After spreading seed it can be covered by lightly raking surface or by going over the area with an empty ballast roller to press the seed into contact with the soil.

Seed Drill – this will drill the seed into the ground at a specified depth. Usually only practiced on very large fields or untilled areas.

Hydroseeding – a mixture of seed, fertilizer and water are sprayed onto the soil. After a mixture of mulch and water is applied over top of the seed. Used most often on large slopes, where broadcasted seed may wash away.

The amount of seed used depends on the species. It ranges from 2lb–6lb per 1000 sq. ft.

Keep seed bed moist for the first two weeks. This should include a watering a few times each day. Do not mow before the grass reaches at least 8-10 cm (3-4") in height.

- *The best time to apply is in mid-August to mid-September when the soil is warm and the nights are cool.*

- *Keep traffic off seedbed as much as possible during the first few weeks.*

