



## Seeding Your Lawn Like a Pro!

### New Lawns

1. Spread a 3-6" layer of top soil or loam. Do not skimp on this step. Quality soil is vital to the long-term survival of your lawn. Add peat moss or compost to loam that has a high sand content. As a rule, rich soil should be a dark brown.
2. Apply lime as needed. You can a soil pH test to be sure.
3. Apply MNLA Pro-Start Fertilizer using a broadcast spreader.
4. Apply a generous amount of the desired MNLA grass seed using a broadcast spreader. See the MNLA Seed Selection Guide or a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturalist for help with selecting the proper seed. Use at least 5 lbs per thousand square feet of area.
5. Roll the area with a lawn roller or lightly rake the surface to ensure good contact with the soil and seed.
6. In hot, dry, windy areas apply a light layer of salt marsh hay or sterile hay. This helps keep the seed moist. Hay also helps seed from blowing or washing away. Avoid using regular hay that may contain weed seeds!
7. Water, water, water! The best formula for success is watering often. Keep the top two inches damp at all times. Use less water more often when the grass plants are young. As the grass develops a healthy root system, usually within 3 to 4 weeks, you can start to water less often, but use more water. This encourages a deep root system.

### Over-seeding an Existing Lawn

1. Cut the lawn a little lower than normal, because you should wait at least three weeks before mowing again in the areas that are being seeded.
2. Rake the lawn thoroughly of any debris or heavy thatch.
3. Scratch and loosen the top inch of soil with a rake. If the existing soil needs to be rejuvenated add a thin layer of peat moss and compost and scratch it in with a rake.

-Follow the above instructions starting with step #2.

#### **Tips:**

- Do not seed your lawn within 6 weeks of applying a Crabgrass pre-emergent. Pre-emergent herbicides can keep good grass from growing.
- Start new grass seed projects between late-August and mid-October. Conditions are more favorable in early fall for new grass seed and less favorable for competing weeds!

*For more information consult your Massachusetts Certified Horticulturalist.*