NEED HELP WITH YOUR LAWN?

It’s time for the Turf Experts at Gertens.

Your complete guide to an easy and beautiful lawn.

Find out about fertilizers, organic formulas, soil conditioners, weed & insect control, rodent solutions, grass seed, seeding instructions and yard waste recycling locations all inside this turf care booklet.
4-Step Fertilizing Program

Step 1
Crabgrass Preventer
Apply: Late April through May

CONTAINS EXCLUSIVE

Crabgrass Preventer contains dithiopyr herbicide which is highly effective for crabgrass control. This product is excellent for established lawns.

Ingredients include:
- 22% Nitrogen for a lush green lawn
- 6% Potash or potassium for growth and drought resistance
- 2% Iron for a fresh green look
- 2.6% Sulfur
- Contains 25% Nutromatic™ to improve soil quality and increase water retention

Contains natural, non-burning, organic, slow-release nitrogen and iron for deep greening. Contains dithiopyr herbicide – a highly effective herbicide for crabgrass control! Can be applied up to 4 weeks later than other pre-emergence crabgrass preventers. A selective herbicide plus fertilizer combination product that provides control of crabgrass and many other weeds in established lawns and ornamental turfgrasses.

Apply in spring before weeds establish or in the fall for a pre-emergent the following spring. Water in to activate.

Do not reseed grass or over-seed your lawn until 3 months after application.

Available in 18 lb. and 50 lb.

Step 2
Weed & Feed
Apply: Late May through early June

CONTAINS EXCLUSIVE

Weed & Feed contains natural non-burning organic slow release nitrogen and iron for deep greening.

Ingredients include:
- 22% Nitrogen for a lush lawn
- 4% Soluble Potash
- 1% Iron for a fresh green look
- 1.4% Sulfur
- Contains 25% Nutromatic™ to improve soil quality and increase water retention

Contains VIPER® Herbicide which controls: dandelions, spurge, plantain, chickweed and 200 other broadleaf weeds. Best results are obtained when weeds are growing actively in spring or early fall.

Apply when lawn is moist. Don’t cut your lawn 3 days before or after application. Avoid irrigation, rainfall, and mowing for 24 to 48 hours after application. Avoid applying during temperatures of 90° or more. Morning applications are best. Water in 48 hours after application to activate.

Maximum of 2 applications per season.

Apply throughout the season to control weeds.

Available in 18 lb. and 50 lb.
Step 3
Turf Special
Apply: Mid-August

Turf Special is a slow-release fertilizer that will give prolonged feeding with less danger of burning the turf.

Ingredients include:
• 24% Nitrogen to increase vigor and create a lush green lawn
• 4% Soluble potash
• 4% Iron to help keep lawns green during summer stress
• 1.4% Sulfur
• Contains 25% Nutromatic™ to improve soil quality and increase water retention

Contains natural, non-burning, organic, slow-release nitrogen and iron for deep greening. Slow-release nitrogen for a longer lasting green lawn. Promotes thick, deep green lawns. Extra potash for healthier lawns. 6 to 8 weeks of fertilization.

Apply in spring, summer or fall as a straight fertilizer if your lawn does not need Crabgrass Preventer or Weed & Feed. Water in to activate.

Tip:
Turf Food can be used in place of Weed & Feed if broadleaf weeds are not a problem in your lawn.

Apply throughout the season when a balanced feeding is needed.

Available in 18 lb. and 50 lb.

Step 4
Winterizer
Apply: Late September through October

Winterizer is the best fertilizer to get your lawn ready for the next spring.

Ingredients include:
• 20% Nitrogen
• 12% Soluble potash
• 2% Iron to help keep lawns green during summer stress
• 4% Sulfur
• Contains 25% Nutromatic™ to improve soil quality and increase water retention

Contains natural, non-burning, organic, slow-release nitrogen and iron for deep greening. Prepares your lawn for winter dormancy. Extra potash for healthier turf and quicker green-up in spring. Specially formulated to maximize root building and winter hardiness.

Apply just before fall seeding. Water in to activate.

Tip:
By applying Winterizer in the fall, you are actually fertilizing for the next spring, making this step the most important of all four steps.

Available in 18 lb. and 50 lb.
Step 1
Crabgrass Preventer plus Lawn Food
Apply:
Late April through early May

A unique combination of slow release lawn food with trace elements. Crabgrass Preventer Plus Lawn Food contains Dimension®, a pre-emergent crabgrass preventer. Provides 8 weeks of control. Do not reseed for 8 weeks

Ingredients include:
20% Nitrogen, 0% Phosphates, 3% Soluble Potash

Apply as a pre-emergent between mid-April and mid-May. Water in to activate product.

Step 2
Weed-Out Weed Killer & Lawn Fertilizer
Apply:
Late May through early June

Weed-out plus lawn fertilizer contains Trimec®, a combination of three powerful weed killers.

Ingredients include:
25% Nitrogen, 0% Phosphates, 4% Soluble Potash

Apply to a wet lawn and avoid cutting 3 days before and after application. Avoid irrigation, rainfall, and mowing for 24 - 48 hours after application. Allow 4 to 6 weeks before your next application of fertilizer.

Note: Apply throughout the season to control weeds.

Step 3
Classic Lawn Food Plus Iron
Apply:
Late summer

Lawn Food contains a source of nitrogen which feeds your lawn for 6 - 8 weeks. Also contains a natural source of potash, one of the three primary plant nutrients.

Ingredients include:
24% Nitrogen, 0% Phosphates, 4% Soluble Potash

Water in to activate product. Allow 4 - 6 weeks before your next fertilizer application.

Note: Apply throughout the season when a balanced feeding is needed.

Step 4
Winterizer
Apply:
September through October

Great for fall feeding, which is the most important feeding. Winterizer helps your lawn come out quicker, thicker and greener in the spring.

Ingredients include:
25% Nitrogen, 0% Phosphates, 6% Soluble Potash

Apply in the fall when leaves change color. Water in to activate product.
**Step 1**  
**Spring Weed & Feed**  
**Apply:**  
Early Spring  

Spring Weed & Feed (Granular Corn Gluten Meal) is a natural broad-leaf pre-emergent that helps prevent weeds from establishing in the spring.

Contains slow release nitrogen which helps promote thicker lawns and lasting turf color. Apply before germination of weed seeds. A short drying period following germination helps kill the weeds before they form roots. If it does not rain for 5 days after application, water with approximately 0.25” of water and then allow the soil to dry for a period following germination.

**Safe for kids, pets and the environment.**

**Step 2**  
**Summer Maintenance**  
**Apply:**  
Early Summer  

Early Summer Turf Maintenance natural fertilizer encourages new growth.

Combines slow release nitrogen which helps promote thick lawns and lasting turf color with quickly available natural Chilean nitrate for a fast turf response. Suståne 9-0-2 is made from a combination of aerobically composted turkey litter, green waste compost, feather meal, Chilean nitrate and sulfate of potash.

Apply in May or June.

**Step 3**  
**Late Summer Starter & Overseeder**  
**Apply:**  
Summer  

Turf Starter and Overseeder 4-6-4 is made from aerobically composted turkey litter, feather meal and sulfate of potash. The composting process makes the fertilizer safe so it will not burn the grass seed.

Applying new grass seed mixed with Suståne to an existing lawn is a great way to promote dense grass coverage and help crowd out weeds.

Apply in August or September.

**Step 4**  
**Fall Winterizer**  
**Apply:**  
Fall  

Fall Winterizer 8-0-4 provides the plant nutrients that grass needs to prepare for winter resulting in a quick spring green up.

Suståne Fall Winterizer promotes thicker lawns and early spring color. Suståne 8-0-4 is made from a combination of aerobically composted turkey litter, green waste compost, feather meal and sulfate of potash.

Apply in September or October.
Sustâne 8-2-4 All Natural Lawn & Landscape Plant Food
Sustâne 8-2-4 All Natural Lawn & Landscape Plant Food is a slow release nitrogen fertilizer that provides lasting plant nutrition from biologically stable compost, natural potash and feather meal. Recommended for use on lawns, landscape, trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, vegetables and all plant varieties.
Coverage: 20 lbs. covers 2,000 sq. ft.

Sustâne 9-0-0 Spring Weed and Feed (Granular Corn Gluten Meal)
Corn Gluten Meal (CGM) is a natural broad-leaf pre-emergent that helps prevent weeds from establishing in the spring. CGM is rich in slow release nitrogen which helps promote thicker lawns and lasting turf color. CGM from Sustâne is granulated and screened, allowing for easy and consistent application. Apply before germination of weed seeds. A short drying period following germination helps kill the weeds before they form roots.
Coverage: 30 lb. covers 1,500 to 5,000 sq. ft. Rate: Apply between 6 and 20 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Milorganite
Organic nitrogen fertilizer composed primarily of heat dried microbes. It’s an all-purpose fertilizer used on lawns, shrubs, trees, flowers, vegetables, golf courses and as a seed carrier. It contains 4 percent non-staining iron for deep greening and can be applied any time during the growing season and is suitable for any climate. Children and pets can safely go onto areas that have been fertilized with Milorganite.
Available in 36 lb. and 32 lb. bags. Covers 2,500 sq. ft.

MaxLawn Starter
MAXLAWN Starter Fertilizer and Lawn Revitalizer is premium blend of primary nutrients formulated for use when reseeding, sodding or revitalizing your lawn. MAXLAWN Starter Fertilizer helps seeds and roots establish quickly and revitalizes soils that are low in nutrients. It also counteracts phosphate deficiency.
Coverage: 16 lbs. covers 5,000 sq. ft.

Organic Lawn Fertilizers & Chemicals

Crabgrass Preventer
Organic, all-purpose fertilizer. Safe for kids and pets.
Soil Conditioners
Soil Activator | Gypsum | Lime

Soil Amendment
HuMic Granular Humic Acid soil amendment is for lawns, vegetable gardens, flower beds, indoor plants and compost bins. A highly concentrated soil conditioner. Derived from remains of decomposed organic plant materials, humic acids enhance nutrient uptake and stimulate soil microbial life. Humic acid encourages root development.

Available in 20 lb. and 40 lb. bags.

Rapid Gypsum
Rapid Gypsum, fortified with pHCa technology, is ideal for leaching out excessive salt in the soil, as well as aerating tightly compacted soil. It will provide instant calcium without affecting pH levels. This patented pHCa technology enhances the plant’s ability to convert nutrients into an immediately available form for nourishment and soil pH maintenance. Rapid Gypsum provides superior results in a reduced dust formula for easy application.

Rapid Lime
Rapid-Lime is a fast-acting treatment that will save you time and money on lawn care. Fortified with pHCa technology, it quickly increases soil pH and calcium levels. This patented pHCa technology enhances the plant’s ability to convert nutrients into an immediately available form for absorption and soil pH adjustment. Use to ensure a good fertilizer response, promote a healthy lawn, soil structure and cut down on moss and excess weed pressure.

Green Loon® Soil Conditioner
Green Loon® Soil Conditioner improves the quality of soils. It loosens clay soil to help improve drainage, aeration and nutrient release for plants to use. Green Loon® Soil Conditioner helps plants & roots hold moisture, nutrients and oxygen in sandy soils. It also increases microbiol activity in the soil. This helps release nutrients in the soil for the plants to use. We recommend that you add a balanced fertilizer program.

Solu-Cal Sulfur Maxx™
Sulfur Maxx™ contains finely grounded sulfur plus soluble Ca and formulated with polyhydroxycarboxylic acids (pHCa technology), which is derived from plant extracts. This enhances the plant’s ability to convert nutrients into an available form for plant uptake and soil pH adjustment. It helps plants solubilize and extract nutrients from the soil while increasing translocation of nutrients in the plant.
Control Insects In Your Lawn

**Turf Ranger** is a broad spectrum residual insecticide for control of certain insects in your lawn. Useful in lawn, around shrubbery and other ornamentals, also effective against common lawn and garden foes such as ants, cockroaches, boxelder bugs, digger wasps and more.

**Ant, Flea & Tick Killer Granules**

*Bonide Ant, Flea & Tick Killer Granules* contain 0.25% Permethrin fast acting, long lasting (4 weeks) insect control for lawns and home foundations. Great for ants, fire ants, fleas, ticks, crickets, earwigs, spiders, sow bugs, silverfish, clover mites, chinch bugs, armyworms, sod webworm, leaf hoppers, millipedes and certain grubs. 10 lbs treats 5,000 sq. ft.

Control Insects In Your Lawn, Including Ticks

**Bug Blaster II** provides broad spectrum control of insect pests in lawns, landscapes, perimeter around buildings. Controls fire ants, fleas, ticks, mole crickets, chinch bugs, european crane flies, scorpions and other listed insect pests.

Excellent Turf Rescue Formula

**Bayer Advanced Grub Killer Plus** high-efficiency granules provide 50% higher concentration, 33% less weight and same great coverage. Contains DYLOX® – kills grubs in 24 hours. Also kills ants, billbugs, chinch bugs, crickets, cutworms, earwigs, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, millipedes, mole crickets, pillbugs, scorpions, sod webworms, sowbugs and ticks.

Liquid Contact Insect Control

**Eight Yard RTS** contains Permethrin 2.5% which provides economical, contact and residual insect control for up to 4 weeks. Kills over 100 insects which destroy lawns, roses, flowers, trees, shrubs, vegetables, fruit, nuts and may be applied to homes and other areas to stop infestations of all flying, crawling and hopping insects.

Annual Grub Beater

**Season Long Grub Control.** One annual application is all it takes to control grubs all season long. Also kills European Crane Fly larvae, mole crickets and other turf destroying insects. Apply any time, spring - summer. 6 lb. bag covers 5,000 sq. ft.
How to control Japanese beetles & grubs.

Japanese beetles can be destructive toward plants in both their adult beetle stage and in their juvenile grub larval stage. As adults they damage plants by feeding on foliage of a multitude of trees, shrubs, fruits, ornamentals, flowers, vines and vegetables. The damage can be identified by skeletonized leaves and large holes in leaves, this can often appear to be a lacey texture. The Japanese beetle grub lives in the soil and causes destructive damage by eating the roots of many plants including turf grass roots.

Spray plants that are already infested with the adult beetles with an insecticide. Bonide Japanese Beetle Killer is a natural pyrethrin based insecticide for use on vegetables, flowers, ornamentals, trees & shrubs. Another effective spray treatment is Bonide Eight Insect Control. It kills Japanese beetles on contact and also has a residual effect, lasting up to a week or more.

As the soil temperature warms in the spring to 60 degrees, mature grubs will move up to eat grass roots until they pupate (the stage between larvae and adult insect). Adult Japanese beetles emerge from the end of June to early July in search of food and mates.

In July, female beetles spend 2–3 weeks laying up to 60 eggs in the soil. Eggs hatch about 2 weeks later. These first-stage (“first-instar”) grubs feed on grass roots for most of August. The grubs are small, feeding close to the surface and vulnerable to insecticides at this time. If possible, control high populations at this stage, before feeding on turf roots is noticeable. Apply grub control at the rate listed on the bag. It will work effectively (preventative and curative) with just one application for the entire season. Water immediately for just 20 minutes after applying. Do not overwater.

Keeping grubs at bay also protects your lawn from moles, shrews, starlings and crows and even skunks that may dig up your lawn to feed on grubs.
Moles
There are two kinds of moles in Minnesota: the eastern and starnose mole. Moles are characterized as small rodents with pointed noses, large clawed, paddle shaped front feet and bulky hairless tails. Moles feed primarily on beetles, grubs, and other insect larvae. Damage caused by moles is noticeable by the large pushed up tunnels they create.

Shrews (aka Shrewmouse)
Shrews are rodents that range in size from 1-5 inches. Six species of shrews exist in Minnesota and are identified as a drab gray or brown colored animal, with longer pointy noses. Shrews don’t cause a lot of damage to lawns or interiors.

Voles
Commonly called field mice and they can be a problem for homeowners. With small heavy bodies, small eyes and a furred tail, they can grow from 5-8 inches long (including the tail). They have long coarse fur that ranges from black to dark brown. Severe damage that voles cause are destroyed turf, ornamentals and edible crops.

Gophers
Damage caused by gophers is distinguishable. Identified by their plump, fur-lined cheeks that are used for carrying food and nesting material. They can grow to 8 inches long. Damage is often severe, with large mounds and tunnels in the yard that can interrupt irrigation systems and cause soil erosion.

Rodent Solutions
The most important thing to remember when trying to control rodent problems is to prevent overwhelming populations from forming. Voles and gophers, in particular, can populate an area at an explosive rate and once these populations form, they are harder to control.

Classical control of these rodents includes the use of poisons and smoke bombs. Poisons can be applied in granular or gel form for moles and gophers, poison pellets for voles and shrews. Smoke bombs are generally tube shaped and hand-lit.

Poison-free control includes the use of traps and castor-oil repellents. A product like MoleGo, or MoleMax can be effective repellents against rodents. These products come in both granular and liquid form. When applied with water, castor oil forces insects to the surface by simulating the results of a rainstorm. Insects become coated with the castor oil, which rodents cannot effectively digest. This will cause rodents to seek food sources elsewhere. Traps for moles and gophers, which include plunger harpoons and choker loops, are the most effective and reliable methods and are usually safer than using poison baits. Harpoon traps send plunger harpoons into tunnels/burrows and choker loops will trap rodents as they use their runs.
Problem: Quackgrass
Quackgrass is a perennial weed grass in Minnesota that is bothersome to both the gardener and the homeowner. It’s very difficult to eliminate quackgrass in the home lawn.

Solution:
Control quackgrass by using nonselective herbicides containing Glyphosate©, like Killzall Weed & Grass Killer, or Kleen Up. Since nonselective herbicides can be destructive to desirable plants, the use of a tube-sponge style applicator is recommended.

Problem: Crabgrass
Crabgrass is an annual grass that grows best in the heat of the summer. Since it is an annual, crabgrass will be killed by a fall frost. Typically crabgrass is more prevalent around curbs, driveways, sidewalks and thin areas of the turf.

Solution:
Crabgrass can be controlled by applying a pre-emergent herbicide in the spring (April 15 - May 30). Crabgrass germinates from mid-April until the end of July. Using a pre-emergent containing Crabbuster Herbicide©, which has a longer lasting 12 week germination inhibitor Crabgrass Preventer, will allow you to effectively prevent crabgrass from ever becoming a problem. A second application can be made in mid-June for even more control. Once crabgrass is established, little can be done to effectively eliminate it; however, knockdown applications of selective herbicide like Weed Out with Q Crabgrass killer, Weed Beater Plus for crabgrass can help control the problem.

Problem: Creeping Charlie
Creeping Charlie is a low growing, perennial weed that thrives in moist, shady areas of the lawn. It will take over sunny areas of the lawn if the turf is thin. In the early spring flowers will appear that can range from dark blue to purple.

Solution:
Control Creeping Charlie by using Weed & Feed, Weed Beater Ultra, or Weed Free Zone.
Solutions to some of the most common weed problems.

**Problems: Thistle, Purslane, & Dandelions**
Thistle can be a problematic perennial or biennial weed in Minnesota. Depending on the variety of thistle, it can produce seed once a year or once every two years. Purslane is an annual weed that reproduces prolifically by seed. Purslane is found more in areas where the ground has been disturbed, such as flower and vegetable gardens. The leaves and stems are fleshy and succulent and are often tinged slightly red. Dandelions are perennial weeds that have unmistakable yellow aster-like flowers. Dandelions will flower in the spring and fall and should be controlled during these time frames.

**Solution:**
Thistle, purslane, and dandelions can be quickly controlled with selective broadleaf herbicides, like Weed & Feed, Weed Free Zone, Weed-Out, or Weed Beater Ultra.

**Problem: Buckthorn**
Buckthorn is considered a noxious weed because of its invasive capability. Buckthorn twigs are tipped with a short sharp thorn and are easy to identify in the landscape. The leaves are dark green with curved main veins. The berries are black, usually persist into winter and contain several seeds.

**Solution:**
Buckthorn can be controlled through several means. The most effective is physical removal, either by digging or pulling with a woody weed removal device. Chemical control is possible either by foliar spray of a brush killer or application of the brush killer, undiluted, to a fresh cut portion of the stump. Use products like Brush & Stump Killer, or Stump & Vine Killer. Generally, painting on the brush killer is more effective.

**Problem: Yellow Nutsedge**
Yellow nutsedge is a perennial grass-like weed. It has a distinguishable triangular stem and is yellow in color. Yellow nutsedge typically grows better in July and August and is capable of outgrowing fescues and bluegrass.

**Solution:**
Yellow nutsedge and other sedges can be controlled as they appear, with Nutsedge Control, and Spreader Sticker.
There's a fungus among us.

**Leaf Spot Diseases of Lawns:**
Leaf spot occurs in cool, wet weather (spring - fall) and is easy to identify by its spots. The leaf blades will develop purplish-red to purplish-brown spots with a tan center. The disease attacks the leaves and can spread to the crown of the grass plant. Wide spread damage to lawns happens during a wet spring.

**Control:**
• Proper watering.
• Maintain mowing height at 2 ½ to 3 inches.
• Apply Infuse Systemic Fungicide or F-Stop.

**Turf Patch Disease:**
These fungi are found in the soil of your lawn. The disease develops during the rainy season in spring, summer and fall. The green grass blades will change to turn tan/brown then reddish in color. In your lawn, you will see dead grass in the shape of rings or circular patches. Temperature and moisture can increase diseases. Prevent summer patch by applying fungicide before high temperatures & humidity.

**Control:**
• Proper watering.
• Maintain mowing height at 2 ½ to 3 inches.
• Apply Infuse Systemic Fungicide or F-Stop.

**Snow Molds in Lawns:**
After the snow melts, if you see matted grass with cobweb-like fungus, this is snow mold. There are two types of snow mold. Gray snow mold (white to gray) stops growing when the lawn dries out and temperatures exceed 45°. Pink snow mold (white to pink) will continue to grow with temperatures up to 60°.

**Control:**
• In the fall, continue to mow your grass until it stops growing.
• Rake all leaves in the fall.
• Apply Infuse Systemic Fungicide or F-Stop in the fall and spring as a preventative.

**Powdery Mildew:**
Powdery mildew is a common disease which creates a dusty white coating on grass blades. This disease generally occurs in the spring and fall and frequently develops in shaded areas with poor air circulation.

**Control:**
• Selective pruning of trees to improve light and air circulation.
• Apply a Fungicide such as Infuse Systemic Fungicide or F-Stop.

**Leaf Spot Diseases of Lawns:**
Leaf spot occurs in cool, wet weather (spring - fall) and is easy to identify by its spots. The leaf blades will develop purplish-red to purplish-brown spots with a tan center. The disease attacks the leaves and can spread to the crown of the grass plant. Wide spread damage to lawns happens during a wet spring.

**Control:**
• Proper watering.
• Maintain mowing height at 2 ½ to 3 inches.
• Apply Infuse Systemic Fungicide or F-Stop.
Seeded lawns tend to be healthier than lawns that are sodded.

Seeded lawns will undergo competition with weeds as they germinate and establish.

The length of time during which you can lay sod is greater than the length of time you can seed.

Seeded lawns can be formulated with mixes that are site specific. i.e. sunny, shady, clay, etc.

Sodded lawns are instant lawns. As soon as the sod is laid, you have green grass. Seeded lawns require time to germinate and establish.

Sod does not perform well in shady areas. The types of seed used in sod is for sunny areas.

Sod is more expensive and labor intensive to install then seed.

Speak with a Gertens lawn & garden expert to discuss your options and decide which is best for you, seed or sod.

Tools you may need.

NeverKink Hose
Neverkink, heavy duty garden hose, self straightening, no kinks or tangles. Available in 5/8” x 50’, 5/8” x 75’, 5/8” x 100’.

Chapin Spreaders
Choose from walk behind broadcast spreaders, or handheld spreaders depending on the amount of area you need to cover.

Garden Weasel
Prepare the soil. In patches you should loosen the soil. The Original Garden Weasel tool can help you do this easily. You may need to do a soil test so you know what is needed.

Truper Rakes
Truper Tru-Tough rakes provide are durable, professional grade and long-lasting. Tru-Tough has long been Truper’s best selling products.

Maintainer Rake
Defeat any lawn and garden job in half the time with the maintainer rake. 21” wide plastic molded frame has end-to-end spring loaded galvanized wire teeth that grab everything in its path.

GreenThumb
GreenThumb products such as manual or digital timers, pulsating sprinklers, oscillating sprinklers, faucet valves and connectors can make watering your lawn easy.
New Lawn Seeding Instructions
Custom design a lawn that fits your yard.

Supplies Needed
- Lawn Seeding Soil
- Grass Seed
- Peat Moss
- Compost
- A Seed Starter + Crabgrass Preventer or MaxLawn Starter Fertilizer, or Profile Cover Grow
- Pelletized Paper Mulch
- Sprinkler, Hose, Timer
- Truper Rakes
- Maintainer Rake
- Seed Spreader
- Garden Weasel
- Straw Blankets or EZtack
- Seed Accelerator

Step 1: Site Preparation
This is the most important step to follow in order to enjoy successful germination of your grass seed. Loosen soil and add soil amendments. Rototill soil to a minimum of 6 inches. Loosening the soil breaks up compaction, allowing the grass seedlings to root and the grass to take up nutrients and air, while giving better seed/soil contact. Sandy or heavy clay soils need to be amended. Grass needs good drainage and soil to grow and thrive. Lawn Seeding Soil allows the plant to survive stress periods and retain moisture and nutrients longer. Level soil and rake smooth. Remove any clumps, rocks and other debris. A leaf rake will leave groove that allow for better seed/soil contact for germination.

Step 2: Use Starter Fertilizer For Grass Seed
Starter fertilizer will give emerging grass a faster, healthier start. Broadcast starter fertilizer over the soil at recommended rates and rake lightly into soil. To help prevent grass seed from competing with weeds, apply a Seed Starter + Crabgrass Preventer fertilizer. This is the only crabgrass preventer that can be used with grass seed. Regular types of crabgrass preventer will prevent germination of grass seed. A roller can be used to slightly firm the soil.

Step 3: Broadcast Seed Over Soil
Follow recommended seeding rate for your grass seed mixture. See seed guide to select the right mix for your lawn. Use a hand spreader for small areas and a fertilizer spreader for large areas. For a more uniform seeding, broadcast one-half of the seed in one direction and the other half in a direction perpendicular to the first.

Step 4: Rake Seed Lightly Into Soil
Raking the seed lightly into the soil less than 1/4” deep and rolling with a roller allows better seed and soil contact, ensuring proper germination.

Step 5: Broadcasting Of Pelletized Mulch To Maintain Moisture
This step is optional, however, we recommend mulching the area so the top several inches of soil do not dry out as fast. It will also help keep weeds down and help seeds germinate faster.

Step 6: Water Regularly
Water 3-5 times a day for 5-10 minutes following seed application until grass is established. It is important that the seed does not dry out.

Step 7: Stay Off The Grass!
Keep people and pets off seeded areas until your grass is established.
Supplies Needed

- Aerator
- A Seed Starter + Crabgrass Preventer, MaxLawn Starter Fertilizer, or Profile Cover Grow
- Grass Seed
- Seed Spreader
- Sprinkler
- Hose & Timer
- Truper Leaf & Thatch Rake
- Maintainer Rake
- Garden Weasel

**Step 1: Mow Lawn Short**
Mow your grass to a height of 1½ to 2 inches.

**Step 2: Rake Area Thoroughly**
Use a leaf rake. Take care not to tear out too much of the existing lawn.

**Step 3: Aerate Your Lawn**
Aeration improves your lawns appearance, usability and ability to absorb water from irrigation. Lawn aeration increases nutrient uptake and helps to break up compaction, allowing the roots of existing grass to breathe. An aerator that pulls plugs is more effective than one that simply pokes holes. Leave soil cores on top of the lawn to help grass seed germination.

**Step 4: Broadcast Starter Lawn Fertilizer**
Use one a Seed Starter + Crabgrass Preventer, or MaxLawn Starter Fertilizer.

**Step 5: Broadcast Seed Over Lawn**
See grass seed mix list for the perfect blend for your yard. Use overseeding rates listed for grass mix per 1,000 square feet. Use a hand spreader for small areas and a fertilizer spreader for large areas. Rent your overseeder from Gertens Rental. For a more uniform seeding, broadcast one-half of the seed in one direction, and the other half in a direction perpendicular to the first.

**Step 6: Rake**
Rake lightly with a leaf rake and in bare spots, cover seed less than 1/4” with soil to ensure good seed and soil contact which will increase germination.

**Step 7: Water Regularly**
Water 3-5 times a day for 5-10 minutes following seed application until grass is established. It is important that the seed does not dry out.
New Beginnings Instructions
A lawn like green velvet!

Supplies Needed

- Sprayer
- Kill-Z-All

When lawn quality is unacceptable, renovation may be necessary. The following conditions may warrant starting over:

- Excessively compacted soil
- Greater than 50% weeds or bare soil
- Excessive thatch

If you encounter any or all of the conditions above, total lawn renovation is the best option for you. If you decide to undertake this project, the best time to renovate your lawn is late summer. You can successfully renovate you lawn during other times in the season if you follow these steps:

Step 1: Mow Area To Be Renovated.
Mow grass to a height of 1½ inches.

Step 2: Spray Weeds & Grasses With Non-Selective Weed & Grass Killer.
Weed and grass killers need to be applied to an actively growing plant. The best time to kill weeds is when the temperature is above 60 degrees fahrenheit. Weed and grass killers are absorbed through the plant tissue and then translocated to the roots. This will kill perennial broadleaf and grassy weeds. Wait at least a week to see if all weeds have been killed. If green weeds are still present, spray the weed and grass killer again. Weeds and grasses should be dead before rototilling occurs. If perennial weeds are not killed to the root, rototilling will propagate and increase the number of weeds in the new section of the lawn.

*See a Gertens lawn and garden expert about spray methods and equipment.

Repairing and Seeding a Thin or Damaged Lawn

**Step 1:**
With a leaf rake, clean and remove all the loose debris and dead grass in the area you are repairing to seed.

**Step 2:**
Re-rake with a “short tooth” garden rake to loosen the soil to prepare the ground for seeding soil and JRK Grass Seed.

**Step 3:**
Add a light coating of Green Loon Seeding Soil and fill in any low spots and/or divots. You’re creating a seed bed of loose soil that will give you good seed-to-soil contact, resulting in better grass seed germination. With your short toothed garden rake, turned upside down, smooth out the seeding soil.

**Step 4:**
Apply seed starting fertilizer and JRK grass seed. Choose the type of JRK Seed that best suits the part of the lawn you’re repairing. Use a lawn fertilizer spreader or hand spreader to apply the starter fertilizer and your JRK grass seed. You can do these steps one after the other, the fertilizer will not harm the seed. Lightly rake seed and fertilizer into soil with your short tooth rake. Remember better seed-to-soil contact equals better germination. **CAUTION: Do not cover seed with more than 1/4 inch of soil or it will not germinate. It’s perfectly fine that much of the seed is visible after raking.**

**Step 5:**
An easy way to keep soil moist is to add a seed cover pellet such as “Cover Grow”, Penn Mulch, or a seeding blanket. **Cover Grow pellets used in these photos.**

**Step 6:**
Water the covered seed bed with a sprinkler or a soft spray nozzle in order to thoroughly soak, (but not to the point of run-off) the area. Be careful not to cause erosion or ruts from over watering. Repeat watering daily until grass seed has germinated and the grass is tall enough to require mowing.
Sunny Grass Seeds & Blends

**All Purpose Quick Sunny Mix**
This mix is designed for sun areas. Perennial ryegrass has quick establishment. The creeping red fescue adds light shade tolerance but requires 50% or more sunlight. After establishment, requires low to medium maintenance. Two to three times a year fertilization is recommended for optimal performance. Irrigation is desirable in drought conditions. Drought conditions would be extended time frames of 90+ temperatures without rainfall for months. Add annual ryegrass for quicker germination for soil cover. During drought conditions, water as needed.

**Premium Sunny Mix**
The best heat tolerance and rapid establishment of the best bluegrass varieties today. Formulated to tolerate disease, light shade, and moderate wear. Optimal results occur when fertilized 3 to 4 times a year. Adequate irrigation is required throughout the year for top performance. #1 rated chewings fescue. **Suggested uses:** home lawns, new seeding, over-seeding, over-seeding newly sodded lawns, and golf course rough areas.

**Super Salt Tolerant Mix (Boulevard Repair)**
This mix is designed for salt tolerance near street sides, sidewalks, and driveways. A low maintenance mix for any high pH soils and low maintenance lawns. Boulevard mix has tolerance to lightly shaded areas. Heavier shade areas along boulevard add chewings fescue or creeping red fescue. **Suggested use areas:** street side lawns, sidewalks between a lawn and the street, along the side of driveways on low maintenance lawns, high pH soils, around pine trees in partly shaded areas and low maintenance lawns.

**Water Conservation Mix**
Great for summer drought and heat. Comes back in the fall, micro clover will not flower. The clover will not attract bees and can be cut very short.

**Sun and Shade Mix**
Full sun, light to moderate shade. 40% fescues in this mix is an excellent mix for shaded areas. Optimal performance includes 3 to 4 fertilizations per year and seasonal irrigation. Under moist or heavy shade use DENSE SHADE MIX or ULTRA DENSE SHADE. The original ALL PURPOSE seed mix for sun or shade areas. Minnesota grown perennial ryegrass insures persistent results. **Suggested use areas:** home lawns in shade to full sun, golf course roughs, light shade trees, over seeding sod lawns where trees have matured and now provide some shade.

**Boulevard Renovation Mix**
Excellent when redoing the entire boulevard, This mix is salt tolerant and low maintenance for any high pH soils. Will take light shade.

**Sandy Soil Mix**
The best mix for sandy soil areas with lack of moisture. It is also good for sun and partial shade with low maintenance. Fertilize twice a year.
Shady Grass Seeds & Blends

**4 Fescue Low Grow, No Mow Mix**
A great mix for sandy soils, ground cover, and no maintenance. Will require little or no mowing depending on fertility and moisture. 10% perennial ryegrass assures fast ground cover for soil erosion until the fescues germinate. Let this mix grow up for a natural look to any landscape for non-mowing areas as a backdrop. Best results are obtained from bare ground soil that is prepared for seeding. Has the best tolerance to drought conditions, with or without sandy soil. **Suggested use areas:** heavy, sandy soil lawns, hillsides, heavily shaded no-maintenance tree lines and needed ground cover areas for soil erosion. For establishment of a true no maintenance lawn.

**Premium Sun and Shade Mix**
Full sun, light to moderate shade. 40% fescues in this mix is an excellent mix for shaded areas. Optimal performance includes 3 to 4 fertilizations per year and seasonal irrigation. Under moist or heavy shade use DENSE SHADE MIX or ULTRA DENSE SHADE. The original ALL PURPOSE seed mix for sun or shade areas. Minnesota grown perennial ryegrass insures persistent results. **Suggested use areas:** home lawns in shade to full sun, golf course roughs, light shade trees, over seeding sod lawns where trees have matured and now provide some shade.

**Premium Medium Shade Mix**
Best mix for moderate shade. Don’t fertilize more than four times a year with ample irrigation. Great for areas with moderate tree canopy. Fertilize 3-4 times a year and water as needed.

**Premium Dense Shade Mix**
The BEST heavy shade tolerant mix available on the market today. JRK Seed Dense Shade Mix will thrive in heavy to modest shade in moist conditions. Under tree use requires a good constant irrigation for success with competing moisture use from nearby trees. Does not need to be fertilized more than 4 times a year, with emphasis on making sure ample irrigation is supplied to area. **Suggested use areas:** part shade to sun areas, under pine trees that are trimmed up to mow under, all shade trees at the heaviest canopy and over seeding problematic shaded areas that all other grasses have problems establishing.

**Ultra Dense Shade Mix**
Great for extremely dark shady areas. Makes a great option for underneath a tree’s canopy. Fertilize 2-3 times a year and water as needed.
Specialty Grass Seeds & Blends

**JRK SEED Cabin Mix**
For low to no maintenance lawns with little or no irrigation. Can be used on hillsides or steep slopes for quick soil cover. Not intended for medium or high maintenance lawns. Will tolerate full sun to part shade areas. After establishment requires 1 or 2 season fertilization for proper plant health. A great mix for weekend homes or cabins where maintenance is low.

**JRK SEED Premium Heavy Traffic**
Requires a good maintenance practice. Optimal performance requires 5 times a year fertilization schedule, adequate irrigation, and 1½ to 2 inch mowing heights. Superior wear tolerance and disease resistance. Contains the newest genetics of wear performance in the country. Contains top rated bluegrasses that are heat and wear tolerant. **Suggested use areas:** premium home lawns, walking paths, picnic areas, football fields, soccer fields, baseball fields, dog traffic wear issues, new seeding and over seeding.

**JRK SEED All Blue Blend**
The BEST mix for over seeding lawns that have been sodded. The best rapid establishment of any bluegrass blend available. Dark green color with superior disease tolerance. Optimal performance requires 4 to 5 times a year fertilization under adequate irrigation. Can be seeded to establish a new lawn, instead of sodding. Very sun-loving and the best heat tolerance. This bluegrass blend will establish faster than conventional bluegrasses. **Suggested use areas:** establishment of new lawns, over seeding sodded lawns and over seeding existing lawns for more bluegrass establishment, sod farms, golf course fairways.

**JRK SEED Country Lawn Low Maintenance**
Ideal for sunny to part shade areas. Fertilization 1 to 2 times per year. Irrigation is optional, but seasonal irrigation is desirable under severe drought if available. High tolerance to wear and tear under low maintenance. **Suggested use areas:** home lawns under heavy wear and low maintenance, parks and picnic areas, camping areas, repair of pet damages in lawns, pet traffic areas, walking paths.

**JRK SEED Premium Sod Over Seeder Mix**
A mix designed for over seeding sunny lawns where rapid establishment is desired. Low to medium maintenance and can be over seeded any time during the year. Slight shade tolerance, moderate wear resistance. Bluegrasses are fast in establishing. No fescue in this mix means low tolerance for heavy to part shade areas. Has good deep green color with moderate to higher maintenance. Needs constant irrigation for proper establishment from seed until established. One to 3 times a year fertilization schedule. For darker color, fertilize more than two times yearly. **Suggested use areas:** over seeding in sunny lawns, establishment of new lawns, moderate wear areas, newly to established sod lawns, golf course fairways, all home lawns.

**JRK SEED Super Salt Tolerant Mix**
Designed for boulevards and other areas that receive winter salt applications.
Purchase your fresh sod at Gertens

Sod should be laid as soon as possible after purchase, or within one day after delivery. If the sod needs to be stored for a time, it should be kept in a cool, shaded area to avoid drying out.

Lay the sod on slightly moistened soil, staggering the joints much like brick laying. When laying sod on a slope, lay the rolls across the slope and stake each piece to hold it in place. Fill any cracks with Gertens soil to prevent edges from drying. Use a roller, from Gertens Rental, about one third full of water to smooth the site and ensure the roots of the sod have good contact with the soil.

Keep the sod moist but not saturated until it is firmly rooted in the soil (a few days), then gradually reduce watering. In two to three months it can be treated as an established lawn.

Aeration may help to prevent layering caused by peat or soil that came with the sod. Aerate after establishment in spring or fall, to at least a depth that goes through the sod and penetrates the existing soil layer.

Once the lawn is established, it will provide its many benefits such as cooling effects, erosion, runoff control, and allergen reductions.

Seeding Soil Recommendations

Lawn Seeding Soil

Take it from us, this product is the best lawn seeding soil you can find! It’s a mix of peatmoss, compost and greens grade sand to lightly cover seed or as a soil amendment in patching large spots and establishing turf for an entire lawn.

Available in bagged or bulk.
Think globally. Act locally.

Gertens Yard Waste Recycling Service

At Gertens we recognize the concerns that today’s homeowners have regarding the sustainability and maintenance of a beautiful lawn. We want to help you achieve a long-term, balanced approach to caring for your yard as well as the environment.

We invite you to bring your lawn clippings, leaves, and yard waste to any of these three locations:

**Gertens Landscape Supply Yard located at:**
5500 Blaine Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Phone: 651-450-1501

*Open year round*

**Gertens R.E.S. Facility located at:**
805 Yankee Doodle Road
Eagan, MN 55121
Phone: 651-209-3511

*Open seasonally*
*April - November*

**Gertens R.E.S. Facility located at:**
12119 70th Street South
Denmark Township, MN 55033
Phone: 651-458-4412

*Enter on 70th Street*

*Open seasonally*
*April - November*
Your Turf Project Just Got Easier

Huge Inventory of Tools and Machines
Rent Hourly, Daily or Weekly

Visit our landscape project desk for a full list of rental options, or call 651-239-1315.