

seeding your lawn

THE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO SEEDING FROM SCRATCH OR SPOT SEEDING

the best of the best in Indiana

The very best time to seed your lawn in Indiana is in fall (*late August through early October*) when cooler temperatures prevent seeds from drying out, but there's still enough sun and rain to encourage a strong start before winter hibernation. Because crabgrass and other weeds die off this time of year, seeds also have a better chance for success without a lot of competition. Spring comes in a close second (*early March through mid-May*) with cool conditions and plenty of moisture. And while timing is of the essence, so is a little research.

This year, we've done it for you! Check out this list of Indiana's most common lawn grasses, their strengths, and potential weaknesses. It all depends on your lawn requirements. Just below, you'll also find a list of Execu-Turf grass seed blends that bring the best of all varieties together.

INDIANA'S COMMON LAWN GRASSES

BLUEGRASS

Spreading growth habit
Good wear tolerance and recover
Excellent color, density, and texture
Slow germination and establishment
Heat intolerance

FINE FESCUES

Excellent for shade and low-maintenance lawns
Good establishment
Attractive leaf that tolerates lower cutting height
Heat and drought tolerant
Medium germination, between blue and rye
Sensitive to traffic and wear until established

PERENNIAL RYE

Excellent germination, establishment, and wear tolerance
Good disease tolerance
Compatible with bluegrass and fine fescue
Excellent for overseeding thin/damaged turf
Fair shade tolerance
Underperformer in low fertility

TALL FESCUE

Best heat and drought tolerance
Longest green
Tough, excellent wear tolerance
Requires less water and fertilizer
Not as attractive as blue or perennial rye
Doesn't spread as quickly as blue

EXECU-TURF GRASS SEED BLENDS

ATHLETIC MIX

75% Tall Fescue (4 varieties)
15% Perennial Rye
10% Kentucky Bluegrass
For New Lawns:
8-10lb/1000sq ft or 400lb/acre
Overseeding: 4-5lb/1000sq ft

EXECUTIVE MIX

60% Perennial Rye (3 varieties)
40% Kentucky Bluegrass (3 varieties)
For New Lawns:
4-5lb/1000sq ft or 200lb/acre
Overseeding: 2lb/1000sq ft

FAIRWAY FOUR

Blend of Perennial Rye varieties
For New Lawns:
5-7lb/1000sq ft or 250lb/acre
Overseeding: 2-3lb/1000sq ft

Premium Shade Mix

20% Perennial Rye
20% Kentucky Bluegrass
20% Creeping Red Fescue
20% Chewing Red Fescue

Landscaper's Mix

Blend of Kentucky Bluegrass and Perennial Rye
For New Lawns:
5lb/1000sq ft or 225lb/acre

Premium Sod Blend

Blend of Kentucky Bluegrass
For New Lawns:
3lb/1000sq ft or 130lb/acre
Overseeding: 4-5lb/1000sq ft

20% Hard Fescue Overseeding: 2lb/1000sq ft
For New Lawns:
4-6lb/1000sq ft or 225lb/acre
Overseeding: 2-3lb/1000sq ft

starting from scratch

A few tips for those of you moving into new homes or renovating an entire lawn:

SOILTEST: Especially on new construction sites, we recommend having a soil test done or purchasing your own home test kit. Results will allow you to determine if additional soil amendments should be added to support soil fertility or pH. For heavy clay soils, it helps to add gypsum to loosen the soil.

PREPARE THE SEED BED: Till, remove rocks or debris, and rake smooth. Do not till when soil is wet.

SOW SEED: Sow the **Execu-Turf** grass blend of your choice at the recommended rate.

ENGAGE SEED: Gently rake seed into the top ½-inch of soil for rapid, uniform germination.

APPLICATION: Use a broadcast or drop spreader to apply lawn starter fertilizer.

PROTECT SEED: Apply straw mulch or sphagnum peat moss (for smaller areas) to prevent seed loss and to help retain soil moisture.

WATER: Thoroughly water, being careful to avoid water run-off or puddles. Then water daily for the first three weeks, keeping the surface moist so seeds and seedlings don't dry out. In the event of extreme temperatures, more than one daily watering may be necessary. During weeks 4 and 5, water every other day to keep the roots sufficiently moist. After week 5, your lawn should be established and require only 1" of water/week.

spot seeding

A simple, 4-step approach to **RESEEDING PATCHES:**

RAKE: Remove dead turf.

PREPARE: Apply a thin layer (approx. 1") of topsoil and the recommended amount of lawn starter fertilizer over entire patch/area.

SEED: Spread your **Execu-Turf** grass seed blend by hand or with a spreader (based on size of area) at the recommended rate.

WATER: Water area well. Over the next three weeks, water daily so seeds don't dry out. During weeks 4 and 5, water every other day to keep roots sufficiently moist. After week 5, reseeded area should be well established and require just 1" of water/week.

how to guide

A simple 3-step approach to **LAWN OVERSEEDING (where turf exists but is thin):**

SEED: Broadcast **Execu-Turf** grass seed blend over existing turf.

FERTILIZE: Apply lawn starter fertilizer.

WATER: Water area well (to depth of 6-8") immediately after overseeding. Water 1-2"/week until lawn thickens.

caring for newly seeded areas

MOWING: With mulching mower set at highest setting, you can begin mowing after 6 weeks. As lawn thickens, gradually lower mower setting with each mowing to a height no lower than 3". For non-irrigated lawns, keep at the highest setting during summer to preserve moisture. A high cut results in deeper, more drought-resistant roots, slower regrowth, hardier turf, cooler soil with higher water retention, and greater resistance to weeds, insects, and disease.

FERTILIZE: Lawns that are re/overseeded in spring should be fertilized in September and November with a fall fertilizer. When lawns are re/overseeded in fall, no fertilizer is needed until the following spring, when we recommend a lawn starter application.

NOWEEDCONTROL: Never apply pre-emergent crabgrass control at the time of seeding. New seedlings can be harmed by weed control, so we recommend waiting until the following season when the new grass will be a bit more mature.

LAWN FERTILIZATION PROGRAM: We invite you to refer to our *FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN: The homeowner's guide to a lush, beautiful lawn* for complete information on maintaining and enjoying your healthy lawn year after year.

And remember, our Altum's garden and landscape experts are always here to help. You can always pick up the phone and call 317.733.GROW or stop in for expert diagnosis and friendly advice.