

“Solutions for a happier lawn and garden”



LET'S THINK SEEDING (Getting ready for September Lawn Care)

I know it is still summer and we are out socializing, boating, beaching, picnicking, etc. I don't want any of you to stop having so much fun, I just want you to put the thought of fall seeding into your head. You don't have to do it quite yet but get yourself mentally prepared and come down to Van Wilgen's to get your supplies for September.

September is the perfect time to overseed your existing lawn, fill in dead patches, or even start from scratch. The soil temperatures are nice and warm so grass will germinate fast. The nights are getting cooler so morning dew helps to provide moisture. Weeds are not as much competition. Watering is less time consuming. Most importantly, you have had a nice summer break, and I promise, if you seed this fall, you will be so much happier with your lawn next spring.

The level you want to seed at is up to you. You can take small patches at a time, clean them up, throw down a little Van Wilgen's topsoil, put down our custom grass seed and you are good to go. Orrrrrr...you can rent an aerator, criss-cross the entire lawn, relieve compaction, apply Encap's Fast Acting Gypsum, put down a layer of topsoil, spread our Van Wilgen's grass seed, use Starter Fertilizer, cover the barest patches with Mainely Mulch chopped hay, water and wait for fresh, green sprouts. These are a couple of methods. No matter what, some preparation needs to be done to get the ground ready for new, fall seed!

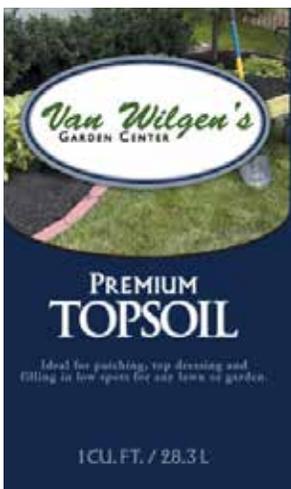
Lawn preparation comes in many forms. Some people choose to do a heavy raking only, others rent machines like core aerators and slit/slicer seeders. Still others, till everything up, bring in new topsoil and start from scratch. No method is wrong but some tips will help no matter what method you choose.

*September is a great month to seed. Come see us at the end of August to get your supplies and start your lawn prep. It would be great if you could get the new grass seed down in the first few weeks of September. Later is okay too, but let's shoot for the beginning of the month.

*Choose the right grass seed. Van Wilgen's has our own custom line of grass seed that is perfectly suited for our Connecticut climate. Come see us and we will help you pick the right grass for your yard.

*If just overseeding your existing lawn, mow your lawn short! This is the only time, I will tell you to do this. The grass seed you apply needs to make contact with the soil in order to germinate. Make seed to soil contact. Don't let the grass seed hover above the soil. It is best to spread out a little Van Wilgen's topsoil first.

*Apply Starter Fertilizer. We offer a great one by GreenView and if you want organic, Van Wilgen's has Milorganite and Espoma's Organic Lawn Starter. Applying starter fertilizer with your new grass seed will really help it to establish deep roots.



Shopping List



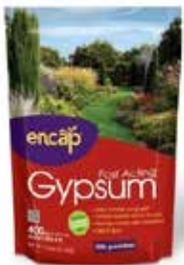
*Cover it! After you have seeded, cover it with Salt Hay or Mainely Mulch. We also carry a Grass Seed Accelerator by GreenView that has starter fertilizer built right into it. It is a great cover for smaller areas.

*Water. Yes, even in the fall you have to water grass seed. A good rule of thumb is: 30 for 30. Water your grass seed for 30 minutes, 2 X's per day for 30 days. Grass seed needs moisture to split open. Once it splits, germinates, and your new lawn is about 1 inch tall, change your watering program. Water every other day for 1 hour in the earlier part of the day. Watering for a longer period of time helps to push deeper roots.

Trust me on this one, you will be so much happier with your lawn for 2014 if you seed this Fall. So enjoy the rest of your summer but start thinking seeding.

Come see us at Van Wilgen's. We would love to help!

Thanks a bunch...Stacey



Van Wilgen's

Garden Center

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