

# Van Wilgen's

## GUIDE TO LAWN SEEDING

The more you seed, the happier you and your lawn will be. There are so many benefits to a thick stand of turf. A full, green lawn provides a tranquil place for more outdoor enjoyment, gives off more oxygen per square foot, keeps weeds from taking over, reduces erosion, keeps dust down, cools the air, and provides a beautiful back drop for your house and gardens.

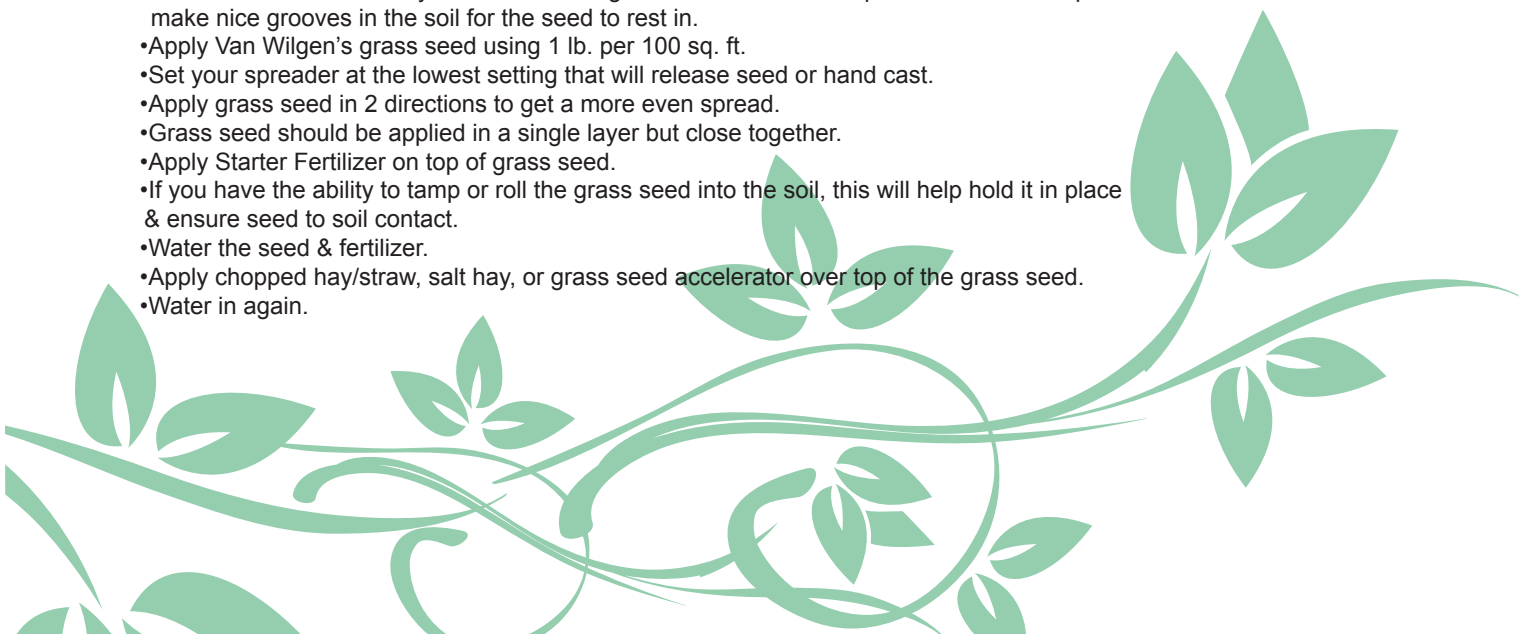
There are many levels of seeding, from basic to more advanced. You can pick which level works best for you based on your budget, the amount of time you have, and just how much you care about your lawn. Whether you are seeding a brand new lawn or over-seeding an existing lawn, Van Wilgen's has the steps and products for successful lawn establishment.

### POSSIBLE SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR NEW LAWN ESTABLISHMENT:

- Rototiller
- Shovel
- Rake
- Spreader
- Topsoil
- Compost
- Lime
- Gypsum
- Grass Seed
- Starter Fertilizer or Starter Fertilizer with Crabgrass Control
- Tamper or roller
- Chopped Hay/Straw, Salt Hay or Grass Seed Accelerator
- Hose
- Sprinkler
- Sprinkler Timer

### ESTABLISHING A NEW LAWN:

- Rototill or turn up existing soil with a shovel at 3 to 6 inches deep.
- If existing soil pH is low, add Pelletized Lime. The goal is to reach a pH level of 6.8 to 7.2.
- Visit Van Wilgen's Garden Center to get one of our many soil testing kits, and head down to the Connecticut Agricultural Station in New Haven to get your results. They can test your Nitrogen, Phosphorus and pH balance there.
- If existing soil is compact or sandy, add Fast Acting Gypsum to alleviate compaction or to help bind sandy soil.
- If soil is needed, combine Topsoil & Compost at a 2 to 1 ratio.
- Rake tilled soil so it is very smooth. A strong metal tine rake will help to smooth out lumps & make nice grooves in the soil for the seed to rest in.
- Apply Van Wilgen's grass seed using 1 lb. per 100 sq. ft.
- Set your spreader at the lowest setting that will release seed or hand cast.
- Apply grass seed in 2 directions to get a more even spread.
- Grass seed should be applied in a single layer but close together.
- Apply Starter Fertilizer on top of grass seed.
- If you have the ability to tamp or roll the grass seed into the soil, this will help hold it in place & ensure seed to soil contact.
- Water the seed & fertilizer.
- Apply chopped hay/straw, salt hay, or grass seed accelerator over top of the grass seed.
- Water in again.



WATER! WATER! WATER! I used exclamation marks because watering is key to successful lawn establishment. Follow the Van Wilgen's RULE OF 30 watering program and you will be celebrating your new, lush lawn.

VAN WILGEN'S RULE OF 30 = Water your newly seeded lawn for 30 minutes a day for 30 days. If it is very hot & dry, water for an additional 30 minutes that day. The best time of the day to water is in the morning or early afternoon.

\*When the new lawn reaches 1 inch = Water every other day for 1 hour a day.

\*When the new lawn reaches 2 inches = Water every 2 days for 1 ½ hours a day

\*When the new lawn reaches 3 ½ inches = Mow off 1 inch.

\*Keep new lawn height at 3 inches throughout the summer season.

YOU DID IT! ENJOY YOUR NEW LAWN!

Van Wilgen's wants you to be successful gardeners.  
It is important to us that you enjoy your LAWN for many years to come.

**HAPPY GARDENING & SEEDING**

