

# Starting Your Lawn

**Lawns provide extra living space for the family and a framework for your flower beds. Preparing the site, choosing the correct seed mix and keeping a good maintenance schedule are the keys to a successful lawn.**

## WHERE TO BEGIN

To begin, evaluate the site and consider how you will be using your lawn. Our lawn seed mixes are blended, depending on site and use. Lawns in shady areas will require a mix that can withstand low light levels. Other grasses are specially formulated for high traffic areas.

## OUR SEED MIXES

Each of our **GARDENWORKS™** custom grass blends vary depending on the type of area the lawn is to be grown in. The ingredients are specially formulated from the different types of grasses listed below.

### BLUE GRASSES (*Poa spp.*)

Excellent sod-forming grass. Will not withstand poor-draining or acidic soils. Should not be used heavily in West Coast mixes.

### CHEWINGS FESCUE (*Festuca rubra var. commutata*)

Tolerates close mowing in cool climates. Low water and fertilizer requirement. Will tolerate some shade.

### CREEPING RED FESCUE (*Festuca rubra var. rubra*)

Grows well in shade or very dry soil. Fine texture, deep green colour. A good grass for dry, shady lawns.

### PERENNIAL RYE-GRASS (*Lolium perenne*)

Fast seed germination and establishment. Good shade and cold tolerance.

## CHAFER BEETLE BATTLE

If you live in the lower mainland of British Columbia, you may have issues with the European Chafer Beetle, a serious pest to turf! Local **GARDENWORKS™** will have several lawn mix options and treatments available to resist or prevent this invasive species. Please note that selection and products varies by location.

## GARDENWORKS™ CUSTOM LAWN SEED BLENDS

### FABULAWN

Our best-looking lawn seed blend. Formulated for a rich luxurious lawn. Many gardeners choose this for their front lawn. A blend of 30% SR4200 Perennial Ryegrass, 30% SR4100 Perennial Ryegrass, 15% SR5100 Chewings Fescue, 15% SR5200 Creeping Red Fescue and 10% Impact Kentucky Bluegrass.

### PREMIUM

Much like our Fabulawn blend, but more durable. Use this for high traffic areas where it is important to have a luxurious lawn. A blend of 40% SR4100 Perennial Ryegrass, 25% SR4200 Perennial Ryegrass, 25% SR5200 Creeping Red Fescue and 10% SR5100 Chewings Fescue.

### ALL PURPOSE

This blend is our easy-care blend, being more durable and drought tolerant of the more premium grass seeds. Use this seed where children play or where maintenance is difficult. A blend of 80% SR4200 Perennial Ryegrass, 20% Creeping Red Fescue, 80% SR4200 Perennial Ryegrass and 20% Creeping Red Fescue.

### SHADY LAWN

Designed for areas under trees and other areas with low light. This versatile blend can also withstand full sun. A blend of 40% SR4100 Perennial Ryegrass, 25% SR5200 Creeping Red Fescue, 25% Creeping Red Fescue and 10% SR5100 Chewings Fescue.

### RAPID PATCH

Use this quick-germinating blend for bare patches, for very small patches, or for overseeding thin lawns. 100% SR4100 Perennial Ryegrass.

## SITE PREPARATION AND SOWING

Proper site preparation will save time and money in the future. Do not short-cut this one-time procedure, it will only contribute to a poor-quality lawn if you do. The following is a step-by-step plan for preparing and seeding your lawn.

### 1. PREPARE THE SOIL

Remove debris from the site and turn the soil to a depth of 20 to 25 cm (8 to 10 inches). Improve the soil by topdressing the lawn with topsoil. A topsoil with at least 30% sand will provide excellent drainage.

### 2. TREAT THE AREA FOR WEEDS

The easiest method is to force the weed seeds to germinate by watering after step one. Weed out emerging seedlings in two weeks time. By doing this, you minimize the number of seeds.

### 3. LEVEL THE AREA

Rough grade the site by filling in holes and smoothing out mounds. Make sure to grade so that water drains away from the house (establish a 1% grade: a 30cm/1ft drop for every 30m/100ft). A long string and a level are useful in determining slopes.

### 4. ROLL THE AREA

Use a roller to firm up the soil. This creates a more uniform planting depth and improves soil contact with seeds. Water the area well after rolling to settle the soil. Rollers can be rented from tool rental companies, and they are usually filled with water to weight them. Fill roller 2/3 to 1/2 full with water. For small lawn, compact the soil by laying a board down and walking on it.

### 5. APPLY FERTILIZER

Like all plants, grass requires food to grow. Apply a seed starter fertilizer, such as **GARDENWORKS**™ 13-26-6 Turf Starter. This will stimulate good healthy root growth of the seedlings.

### 6. CALCULATE THE LAWN AREA

(length x width = square area). 1 kg of **GARDENWORKS**™ lawn seed blend will sow approximately 35m<sup>2</sup>. See the Seed coverage chart on the bottom of the page. Spread the grass seed evenly by using a hand spreader. Sow half the seed in one direction and the second half in the opposite direction for best coverage. Mixing seed with sand or peat moss will make seeding easier.

### 7. COVER THE SEED

Rake lightly and cover with a thin layer of soil.

### 8. WATER

Water lightly and frequently to keep soil moist until grass is green.

### 8. MOW

You can mow your new lawn once it has reached 7.5cm (3 inches) in height. Set the mower at 5cm (2 inches) and make sure the blades are sharp. Keep off the new lawn until after the first mowing or turf is well established.

#### SEED COVERAGE CHART

**500 grams covers  
17 sq. metres (187 sq.ft)**

•  
**1kg covers  
35 sq. metres (375 sq.ft)**

•  
**5kg covers  
175 sq. metres (1875 sq.ft)**