

Overseeding Without Wasting Guidelines



CVWD is asking Professional Landscapers to encourage their customers not to overseed to avoid wasting water and exceeding their assigned water budget. If they choose to overseed, please follow the guidelines listed below to minimize excessive overseeding water use.

- 1 Do not overseed too early.**
Planting seed between mid-October and mid-November requires much less germination water than planting in September or early October.
- 2 Reduce fertilization.**
Do not fertilize 4-6 weeks before setting down seed to slow the growth of the soon-to-be-overseeded Bermuda grass.
- 3 Prepare your seedbed.**
Two weeks before planting reduce your irrigation schedule by 50% and gradually lower your cutting height to ½ inch by your scheduled planting day. Rake and remove all clippings and lawn debris so that the sowed seed will contact the soil.
- 4 Tune up your sprinkler system.**
Check your sprinklers for proper operation, level tilted heads and clean clogged nozzles
- 5 Follow the seed package label directions.** Apply the seed according to the package label.
- 6 Ensure good seed-soil contact.**
Roll the seeded area to enhance seed-soil contact.
- 7 Cover the seeds.**
Apply 1/8 inch -1/4 inch of seed cover over the planted area with a compost spreader.
- 8 Make sure the seed cover is fully wetted.**
Wet the seed cover thoroughly down to the soil surface.

- 9 Implement this germination irrigation schedule***
Begin watering for 3 minutes (spray heads) or 10 minutes (rotary heads) per irrigation, 5x/day, at 2 hour intervals, starting at 8 a.m.
- 10 Watch for germination in about 7 days.**
- 11 Reduce irrigation frequency after early growth.**
When grass blades are 1-inch high, reduce irrigation to 3x day.
- 12 Don't mow too early or too low.**
Mow your new grass according to label recommendations.
- 13 Resume normal irrigation.**
Start using CVWD's Watering Guide for Turf Grass recommendations after the second mowing.

Watering Guide for Turf Grass (in minutes per day)				
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Spray heads	10	7	4	3
Rotary heads	22	14	10	6

Individual watering times vary based on sprinkler efficiency, soil and weather conditions.

*Due to differences in ET0 zones and sprinkler performance, this recommended overseeding irrigation schedule should be accompanied by frequent observation. The overseed cover should never be allowed to dry out prior to the first mowing.



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