

Turf Planting Guide

For the Intermountain West

Granite Seed Company's premium turfgrass seed mixtures have been selected and blended using the highest quality varieties to ensure a beautiful, healthy lawn. You will find there is no finer turf mix on the market today.

Our Turf Experts have carefully detailed the process of planting and establishing a lawn in this planting guide. Please take some time to read over this guide before you begin planting your lawn. This guide was developed for the states of the Intermountain Western U.S. If you live in another area, you should check with your local County Extension Service for guidance. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Installing a lawn from seed can be difficult. If you are unfamiliar with good landscaping practices, you may be better off hiring a trained professional.

The ideal time to plant lawn seed is when daytime temperatures are around 70°F, typically starting April 15 in the Intermountain West. Planting can generally continue until September 15.

For most residential lawns, Granite Seed Company recommends our premium Blue Ribbon Blend. Note that seeding rates vary by turfgrass type.

Blue Ribbon Blend – 80% Kentucky bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass. Seeding rate: 4–5 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Velvet Blue Blend – 100% Kentucky Bluegrass. Seeding rate: 2–3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Triple Play Blend – 100% Turf Type Tall Fescue. Seeding rate: 12 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Preparing the site is the most important step for establishing a healthy lawn. The soil must be fertile. Contact your local County Extension Agent for a soil test, or assess fertility by ensuring vegetation is currently growing. Remove existing vegetation using a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup when weeds are actively growing.

Apply Roundup per label instructions. After seven days, till the soil 4–6 inches deep. Add and incorporate topsoil as needed to bring the site up to grade.

Use a rake to level the area and remove debris. If installing a sprinkler system, do so now. Rake again afterward.

Roll the soil with a lawn roller filled at least halfway with water. Avoid compacting the soil by rolling too much. You should only sink about ½ inch when walking on it.

Apply turfgrass seed using a drop spreader in two directions: half north-south, half east-west. Adjust the spreader according to manufacturer recommendations.

Lightly rake the seed into the soil with one pass of a leaf rake. Do not bury it more than ¼ inch.

Save a small amount of seed to patch areas later that do not fill in fully.

Keep the seedbed consistently moist. Water lightly 4–5 times per day for 5–10 minutes each time. Sandy soils may need more water; clay soils may need less.

Continue watering daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the lawn is established—typically in about 3 weeks.

Begin mowing when the grass reaches 2–3 inches. Only mow areas that have reached this height.

Keep all foot traffic off the lawn until after the second mowing to prevent soil damage.

Fertilize about six weeks after planting using a balanced fertilizer such as 16-6-8. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not apply a broadleaf herbicide until after the second mowing, and only if necessary.

With proper care and maintenance, your new lawn will offer beauty and comfort for years to come.