



## **Seeding and Establishing a New Lawn**

Your lawn is being seeded typically with a Northern blend of seed; 60% Bluegrass, 20% Red Fescue and 20% Annual and Perennial Rye. The Annual Rye will appear first in approximately 7 to 10 days. It will have a wider blade and die after the first year unless we have a good snow cover. All of the grass will be up in about 14-21 days. A good blend insures a healthy, disease-free lawn with good color, cool through warm seasons.

### **Steps to Establish a Beautiful Lawn from Seed**

**Soil:** 4-6" topsoil is best. Till top 2" before seeding.

**Watering:** Initial watering should be done 3-5 times daily for 3-5 minutes each zone. Soil should be kept damp, not soggy. Check with sprinkler system installer to get a close schedule, you may have to adjust it. Also, try not to water late in the day or evening. After establishment of lawn, watering should be at 1 1/2" – 2" per week, more if soil is sandy.

**Fertilizing:** A starter is put down when seeded. At 4-5 weeks you can apply a 10-10-10 at full rate, or preferably, a 20-10-5 ammonium sulfate at half rate. Cashman's special blend of ammonium sulfate fertilizers will actually lower the pH of your soil. Reapply three to four weeks later at full rate. Try to fertilize when temps are 85 degrees or less and water well after application. Fall fertilizing is highly recommended. In late fall, use a fertilizer with a weaker concentration of nitrogen. We commonly sell it as a "winterizer" fertilizer.

**Mowing:** Do not mow first month or so, then set mower as high as possible for several mowings. After lawn is established, cut to two inches when grass is three inches high.

**Weeds:** Normally, after topsoil is spread, you will water and let weeds come up. The spray with Round-up or something comparable. Let weeds die for seven days before seeing. If you bypass this step, weeds can be taken care of later with a post and pre-emergent herbicide. Broadleaf herbicides can be applied after the lawn is fairly established 8-12 weeks. A pre-emergent is then applied in early spring. This will stop weeds that come from seed each year. Once lawn is well established, most weeds will be choked out by the new lawn.

**Aerate:** An important step in new lawns, especially tight soils. Normally, all lawns, old and new, should be aerated in spring. It is a good way to bring life to an old yard. New lawns should be done 4 months after seeding and can be done the following season if necessary. This puts air back into the soil after all the heavy watering has compacted and filled much of the air space in your soil. A permeable soil is needed to build a strong, healthy root structure and allow nutrients to move into the root zone and be available to the plants.

**Thatching or Power Raking:** Should only be done to heavily thatched lawns. This can be done in the fall or spring to remove old, dead grass. Usually, power raking or thatching is done only every three years or so, depending on conditions.

**Drain Tile:** It is highly recommended to add plastic drain tile (available at most hardware stores) to each down spout taking water from the roof to the street or existing lawn. You will avoid most, if not all, washouts created by rain. We are not responsible for acts of nature, but this will help you avoid some washout problems.