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BEAUTIFUL LAWNS

## OVERSEEDING A LAWN

Fall is a great time to overseed an established lawn. Lower light intensities, and cooler evening temperatures promote great grass growth, and conserve moisture for young grass seedlings. In established lawns, overseeding can thicken up and revitalize thin and tired turf, and keep weeds choked out.

Overseeding compensates for the natural aging of grass and keeps a lawn stock with the newer disease resistant varieties of turf grass available today. The Tall Fescue varieties today have great texture, and are traffic and drought resistant. But Tall Fescues benefit from overseeding in the fall to maintain their thick characteristics. Tall Fescues are only one example of the kinds of grass that make our Central Ohio lawns, and they all benefit from overseeding. While it takes some work, it is well worth the effort.

First mow the area to be overseeded to the mowers lowest adjusted setting and collect the clippings. Rake the area vigorously, to collect any thatch below the grass and prepare a mineral soil bed for the new seed to fall on.

Select your seed of choice and use the rate recommended for overfeeding, (or halve the amount recommended for new lawns.) Water your newly seeded lawn at LEAST twice daily for two weeks. When the new grass reaches three inches in height start mowing. Fall fertilization is recommended to accelerate the growth of grass and prepare it for winter.

For patching, the soil must be loosened up to a depth of 1 1/2 to 2 inches, seed applied and the seed lightly covered with straw, peat or mesh fabric to conserve moisture between watering. Mow and fertilize as above.

A number of lawn problems can be traced to compacted, or heavy clay soils beneath the turf. Poor drainage and low oxygen levels in these soils create the perfect conditions for opportunistic weeds and moss growth, resulting from thin stands of grass. Aeration of the lawn can help loosen compacted soils. Lawn aerators can be rented at local tool rental shops and are easy to operate. Follow up aeration with the application of 1/2 inch of compost or peat compost on top of the soil. This introduction of organic matter to the lawn will greatly increase the ability of the lawn to thicken up. And the thicker the lawn becomes, the fewer weeds you need to deal with.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the experts at Oakland. We can help with advice on your lawn care problems.