

August 29, 2016

'Grass Roots' Turf Tips- Choosing the Right Grass for Your Lawn

As summer begins to turn to autumn over the next few weeks, this is an excellent time to think about renovation and rejuvenation if you have a cool-season grass lawn. A lot of homeowners think about the start of lawn and garden season being in the spring, but as a professional, I find it more helpful to think about the start of the "season" for cool-season lawn grasses actually being in September. What you do now in September and October can have a strong impact on having a great growing season next year.

With cooler days and nights on the way, this is a prime time of year to aerate and overseed your lawn to try to improve coverage and density for next spring. You will want the lawn to be somewhat moist so if it has been dry you will want to water the lawn a few days before aerating so that the aerifier can make holes in the soil and not just "bounce along" soil that is hard. You can rent an aerator from your local equipment rental store and find quality seed usually at your local garden center (seedsuperstore.com also has a good selection). Check out your state's extension service brochures for more local information on lawn care for your area (<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/LandGrantColleges.pdf>)

Unlike your watering schedule during the heat of the summer where the recommended technique is to water "deeply and infrequently" (watering 2-3 times per week in drought stress conditions, but watering deeply when you do), during new seedling establishment it is best to keep the new seed consistently damp—so this may involve watering a few times a day, just with very small amounts. Keep this watering schedule until the grass has germinated and gets growing a bit. Turf-type tall fescue usually germinates in 10 days this time of year, but Kentucky bluegrass takes a little longer. Keep this watering schedule until the grass has germinated and gets growing a bit.

-Geoff Rinehart, 'Grass Roots' Exhibit Coordinator



September is a great time to aerate and overseed tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and ryegrass lawns.