Overseeding Without Wasting Guidelines

Every year, many homeowners and landscapers mistakenly believe that overseeding grass requires flooding the lawn.

You can successfully overseed grass without increasing irrigation if you follow Coachella Valley Water District’s Overseeding Without Wasting Guidelines listed below.

1. Don’t begin until temperatures cool
   Wait until summertime Bermuda grass is dormant. Mow low, but do not scalp. Begin reseeding when night time temperatures are consistently in the 60s (typically October and November).

2. Proper sprinkler coverage is important
   Before sowing the seed, check and maintain your sprinkler system to be sure it waters uniformly and that all sprinklers are positioned properly.

3. Keep seed moist, not soaked
   Sow the rye grass seed so it is in contact with the soil. Irrigate to keep seed moist, but not soaked while it germinates. Flooding lawns during reseeding is unnecessary and wasteful.

4. Use CVWD’s drought watering guide
   To keep the seed moist without soaking, water several times a day, but for brief periods. The total watering time per day should be no more than what is listed in the CVWD Drought Watering Guide. Daytime watering restrictions are waived when overseeding.

5. When grass begins to grow, reduce the number of watering times
   After the seed emerges and grass begins to grow, reduce the number of watering times per day, while increasing the duration without exceeding total watering time listed in the CVWD Drought Watering Guide.

6. Follow the seed instructions for mowing your new lawn.

How long will it take for my grass to start growing when using these guidelines?
Grass should take about 30-60 days to mature from the date of seeding.

| Drought watering guide for turf grass (in minutes per day) |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Spray heads              | 12        | 10    | 7     | 4     | 3     |
| Rotary heads             | 27        | 22    | 14    | 10    | 6     |

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

Stay connected with us!
www.cvwd.org

---