



## 3 OPTIONS FOR FALL LAWN RENOVATION

TASK	OPTION 1 Overseeding Acceptable Turf	OPTION 2 Renovation with Minimum Tillage	OPTION 3 Renovation with Major Tillage
<b>Get a Soil Test</b>	Have the soil tested before starting any lawn renovation.		
<b>Chemical Application (by mid-August)</b>	NONE	Apply glyphosate (sold under several brand names such as Roundup®, Kleenup®, etc.) Read and follow label directions. More than one application of glyphosate may be required to completely eradicate the weeds.	
<b>Preparing Seedbed (by late August)</b>	Following irrigation or a soaking rain, make 2-3 passes with a core aerator or 1-2 passes with a dethatcher. It may be possible to hand rake small areas. <i>Note: it is important to have loosened soil at the surface to ensure good seed to soil contact.</i>	Following irrigation or a soaking rain, and 7-10 days after making the chemical application, use one of the soil preparations listed in the previous column.	Following irrigation or a soaking rain, and 7-10 days after making the chemical application, till up the area to a depth of 4"-6". Allow the tilled area to settle for 7 to 14 days, then rake and fill in low spots.
<b>Application of Lime – Don’t Guess, Soil Test!</b>	Apply lime according to the soil test report recommendations.		
<b>Application of Fertilizer</b>	Apply fertilizer according to the results of a soil test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply a turf maintenance fertilizer if the soil test indicates that there are no nutrient deficiencies.</li> <li>Apply a “starter” fertilizer if the soil test indicates a need for additional phosphorus.</li> <li>Apply a fall or “winterizer” fertilizer if the soil test indicates a need for additional potassium.</li> </ul>		Apply the amount and analyses of fertilizer recommended by the soil test report. The fertilizer can be applied immediately following the lime application. Incorporate both into the soil to a 4"-6" depth at the same time.

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<b>Seeding (September 1 to October 15)</b>	For sunny to partial shade conditions seed at the rate of 2-3 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. using one or a blend of "turf type" tall fescue grass seed. For shady conditions seed at a rate of 2-3 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. with a fine fescue grass seed (i.e. Creeping Red fescue, Chewings fescue, Hard fescue or Sheep's fescue.	Same recommendations as stated in the previous column, except increase seeding rate to 4-6 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. for both sunny and shady conditions.	
<b>Mulching Seeded Area</b>	A light layer (1/4") of peat moss or leaf compost may be used on "patches" that were overseeded.	Mulch with a light layer of straw so that 50% of soil surface is covered.	
<b>Mulch Spread Rate</b>	Use the following formula to calculate the amount of peat moss or leaf compost needed to provide 1/4" cover:  $V = A_T \times 0.02 \text{ ft.}$  Where: V = volume of mulch in cubic feet A <sub>T</sub> = total area of surface to be covered 0.02 ft = equivalent of 1/4"	Apply 1½ to 2 bales of clean straw per 1,000-sq. ft. of seeded area.	
<b>Seedbed Watering</b>	For all 3 options, maintain good moisture in the top ¼ to ½ inch of soil. This may require several light waterings per day for 10 to 14 days after seeding if there is not adequate rainfall. The objective is to prevent the seedbed from drying out. Once the grass seedlings are up, if rainfall is limited, apply ½ inch of water every 2 to 3 days until the seedlings are well established (normally 30-35 days after seeding).		
<b>Mowing</b>	Begin mowing as soon as the new grass is 3 to 4 inches tall. Mow with a sharp blade and never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at each mowing. Do not bag clippings; return them to the lawn to recycle nutrients.		
<b>Maintenance Practices</b>	After the turf has been established (6 to 8 weeks), follow the S.O.N. program and other maintenance practices outlined on the sheet entitled "A Good Turfgrass Maintenance Program for Henrico County".		

These guidelines should assist you in restoring or upgrading your lawn. We might add that there are areas in many yards where it is extremely difficult to grow grass. This is the result of many factors including heavy shade, poor drainage, steep slopes, etc. These areas may require major effort in order to establish a stand of grass that may be beyond the scope of the practices outlined in the options above. Feel free to contact us at the Extension Office for assistance with the difficult areas in your lawn.

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