



DORMANT SEEDING AND COLD GERMINATION FOR REPAIR AND CHANGE



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The weather conditions and moisture in winter act like seed priming to enable quick, early germination. The best month depends on your location. Use a higher seeding rate to compensate for any loss. Correct any problems with your site before seeding. Sometimes you need to examine the site to see why the turfgrass failed in the first place. Maybe it is problems with the irrigation system, soil issues, tree root competition, too much shade or wet spots. Try to correct these problems before any seeding is done. Think about how much maintenance you want to do and the look you want to have. Tall Fescue / Kentucky bluegrass blends do well for high or low maintenance. Fine fescue blends are excellent for sun or shade low maintenance and can be used for reduced mowing or a meadow type look. Kentucky bluegrasses are often considered the highest quality lawn in northern areas. Perennial ryegrasses are added to many blends for quick establishment and dark green color but make sure any blend has ryegrass cultivars with Gray Leaf Spot resistance. Wait for spring. Seed should be germinating just as the soil starts warming. If its dry you may need to irrigate to improve establishment. If you have a good stand you may not need preemergent herbicides or can use them now. If you need to thicken the stand wait and use post-emergent herbicides for early weeds. Stronger plants from the winter planting leads to better summer survival.