

1. The soil should be dug up to one spade depth, which will bury any existing plant growth as green manure, resulting in increased soil humus content and providing organic fertiliser. As additional soil improvement, 4-5 bags of garden compost can be added per $100 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$. Apply compost evenly and work it in well. This step will also break up the soil into smaller particles.
2. Rake the seedbed in order to clear out any plant remains, large stones, etc. and level the surface.
3. The soil should now rest for two to three weeks, so that it can settle down and any weeds remaining in the topsoil can germinate and emerge.
4. After the rest period, loosen the surface to a depth of $2-3 \mathrm{~cm}$ with a rake in order to remove the weed growth and even out any bumps. The soil can then be rolled or tamped down using a wooden board.
5. If the surface isn't too wet, evenly sow the desired lawn mixture at the recommended sowing rate, either by hand or using a broadcast seeder. Grass can be sown from spring to late autumn, with the best months being April, May, June, September and October. Ideally, sowing should take place on a day with no rain or wind and light cloud cover. In order to
provide optimal conditions for seeding the lawn, spread a special fertiliser (starter fertiliser) over the new seeds. Gently rake the grass seeds and fertiliser, roll or tamp and, if necessary, water moderately to keep the seeds from drying out.
6. In the following three to four weeks, the newly planted surface must be kept from drying out. If necessary, water using a sprinkler. It is important that the sprinkler uses fine nozzles, so that the water doesn't wash the seeds away and the soil does not become muddy and hard. The best time to water is in the early morning or late evening.
7. Once the grass has grown to around $8-10 \mathrm{~cm}$ (hand height), the young lawn will be mowed for the first time. The lawnmower blades should be as sharp as possible, since the grass plants are still very delicate. Furthermore, only the tips $(1-2 \mathrm{~cm})$ should be cut in the first mowing. Subsequent cuts can be made at the desired height. Frequent mowing, especially during early development, will lead to a thick, vigorous sward in a very short timeframe.

## Lawn care:

After sowing has been successfully completed, proper maintenance is essential for preserving the lawn. The right lawn care is the only way to ensure that the lawn can last for several years with a uniform, attractive appearance. Mowing, fertilising, aerating (dethatching) and watering are the most important elements of lawn care. Weeding and treating plant diseases are also part of maintaining the lawn.

## Mowing:

Mowing the lawn is one of the most time-consuming and vital elements of lawn care. Frequent cutting, along with proper fertiliser application, encourages the development of a thick, carpet-like sward, since mowing stimulates growth in a horizontal direction. In addition, it will make your lawn stronger and more resilient. When choosing the right time to cut the grass, it is important to remember that no more than one third to one half of the plant's growth should be taken off at a time. If considerably more of the growth is taken off in a single cut (radical cut), the plants lose too much of their green matter to regrow very fast. In a home garden, the grass height should be between 3 and 5 cm . Accordingly, the lawn should be mowed when the growth reaches a height of 6 to 10 cm . Aside from this, you should try to cut the grass, when possible, once to twice per week in spring.

## Fertilisation:

Since lawns constantly have to regrow and remain dense, and since mowing constantly removes nutrients from the lawn, applying the right amount of fertiliser is important for the formation of a dense, green sward. Grass is constantly in the process of growing, and the nutrients it needs have to be provided using targeted fertilisation. This involves providing the lawn with more than just nitrogen - it needs a balanced ratio of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium and trace elements. These nutrients play a variety of roles in the formation of plant tissues and controlling the plant's metabolism. As such, the most suitable option for lawns is a multi-nutrient fertiliser with a composition that provides the necessary ratio of nutrients.

## Watering:

Make sure that your lawn always has enough moisture. Normally, natural precipitation should be sufficient. Should it become necessary to water the lawn during long periods of drought, the following aspects should be considered: New lawns or recently sown grass should be watered at a rate of about 1-2 L/m² every two days, while older lawns should receive a thorough watering of up to $20 \mathrm{~L} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ once per week. Water your lawn early in the morning or late in the evening, and never under direct sunlight.

Lawn care throughout the year: Necessary measures


| Starter/spring fertiliser |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Summer fertiliser |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Autumn fertiliser |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

