



## Fall Lawn Renovation Program for 2009 60/40 Lawn

(When less than 40% of your lawn consists of weeds)

**Week One:** Mow the lawn to a height of 2", bagging the clippings. In the **Ortho Dial Sprayer** add 4 teaspoons of **Spreader Sticker to Speed Zone liquid Weed killer**, set the **Ortho Dial Sprayer** to the 1 tablespoon per gallon setting for tall fescue grass and spray the entire lawn. Avoid over spray onto desired flowers, trees or shrubs, since this could cause damage to those plants. The **Spreader Sticker** facilitates that the herbicide will stick to the leaves of the weeds, where the plant will absorb it. An alternative to spraying is an application of **Green Light Wipe-Out Tough Weed Killer using** the lawn spreader. Follow the directions on the bag.

**Week Two:** Mow lawn to 1 ½" this week. Apply **MSMA crabgrass killer**. See your local **Independent Garden Center professional** for the correct choice. The grass weed killer will eliminate crabgrass, goose grass, foxtails, and many other grassy weeds. Apply at the label rate. For control of yellow nutsedge, apply **SedgeHammer**. Either may be selectively applied to affected area. One package covers 1000 sq. ft. If you are renovating a large area, call a rental center to reserve a **Verticut dethatcher** or a **Power rake dethatcher** for next week.

**Three Weeks Later:** Mow the lawn as low as possible with out scalping the lawn, approx. 1 ½" to 2", bagging all clippings. Pick up the dethatcher if necessary. For a small area (>1500 sq. ft.) use a hard tine rake or a thatching rake to remove the dead material from the lawn. For larger areas use the powered method. Have the rental center set the dethatcher blades to a depth of ¼" to ½". Dethatch the entire area that is being renovated. Dethatch first in ↕ direction, then dethatch in ⇔ direction. Go over areas that were especially weedy with a few extra passes on the diagonals.

Rake up all of the debris that was created by dethatching. Be careful not to take too much soil. Dispose of the thatch and other material.

If the lawn has never been aerated, this may be the time to consider doing so. Core aeration uses hollow tines to remove plugs of soil from the lawn. This process reduces soil compaction, there by increasing the amount of air and water around the root system of the grass plant, which in turn will create a healthier grass plant. A core aerator may be rented from the local equipment rental center. *Be sure to use only a hollow-tine aerator.*

Fill any holes that may have existed in the lawn, with topsoil and level any hills that may have existed. The seedbed is now ready.

There are a wide variety of grass seeds to choose from. **The Independent Garden Center** staff will assist you to find the recommended **premium certified grass seed** for your conditions.

We strongly recommend **Turf Sense Yellow Jacket Brand premium certified tall fescue blend** for its superior performance in both sunny and shady conditions in this area.

Overseed the entire lawn with **Turf Sense certified** grass seed. The settings for the seeds are as follows:

Location	Lbs. Per 1000 sq. ft.	Cyclone – Spyker Setting
Full sun	4#	7
Part Shade (50% sun)	2#	6
Shade	1#	5

Seed the edges of the lawn first, moving slowly so as to keep the seeds out of the flowerbeds and off the driveway, then proceed into the middle areas of the lawn. For areas that were left totally bare from the thatching, overseed again.

The small areas that were totally bare need to be covered with **compost**. **Compost** is important to assist grass plants to become established. The high humus content will help to improve the soil and give the emerging grass plants a nutritious environment in which to grow.

The large areas that were totally bare should be covered with **Salt Hay**. Salt hay comes in a straw size bale and covers approx. 750 sq. ft. The salt hay will protect the seeds and newly germinating seedlings. It helps retain moisture, cushions rainfall, and helps keep birds from eating the grass seed. Salt hay is unique in that it contains no weed seed. Straw and hay are loaded with weed seed, all of which can germinate in your new lawn. Many of the weeds in straw and hay cannot be killed with out doing damage to your new lawn.

After seeding apply **Turf Trust 24-2-12 Lawn Fertilizer**. This product contains *Crotonylidene Diurea*. This product is a unique combination of 19 elements, which will feed your lawn without you having to apply other additives or lime through the winter. The most important feedings for the grass plant are the early fall and the late fall feedings. The energy is stored by the plants in the roots, in the form of carbohydrates.

Begin watering the lawn. For the next 10 to 14 days, wet the lawn with a spray nozzle at least once a day, twice a day if possible. This process is nothing more than using the hose and spray nozzle to mist the lawn for 4 minutes per 1000 sq. ft. without causing puddeling or run-off.

**Note: Always refer to product labels for specific use directions, precautions, and limitations before using products.**