

Fall Lawn Renovation Program for 2016
Disaster Lawn
(When more than half of your lawn consists of weeds)

Week One: Mow the lawn to a height of two inches, bagging the clippings, then water the entire lawn. The next day, spray entire lawn with [Bonide's kleen-up](#) or [Gordon's Pronto](#). Use the herbicide at the rate recommended for lawn renovation. When spraying add [Turbo Spreader Sticker](#) and Monterey Make it blue [Marker Dye](#) to the spray. The spreader sticker will ensure that the herbicide sticks to the foliage of the plants to be killed and the marker dye will show the area where the herbicide has been sprayed. Call a rental center to reserve a **Verticut dethatcher** or a **Powerrake dethatcher** for week Three.

Week Two: Take a break and prepare for renovation.

Week Three: Scalp the entire area that is to be renovated, bagging the clippings along the way. Pick up the dethatcher. Have the rental center set the blades on the dethatcher to a depth of 1/4" to 1/2". Dethatch the entire area that is to be renovated. Dethatch first in ↕ direction, then dethatch in ⇄ direction. If there are still a lot of clumps of grass holding on to the soil, dethatch in the diagonal directions as well.

Rake up all of the debris that was created by dethatching, for large areas a **Billy Goat** vacuum can be rented. 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. For lawns with poor drainage you can apply [Ditomite](#) after aeration to help with the poor drainage. 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 remove any hills that there may have been. If soil needs to be added to the yard this is the time to do so. A 60/40 mixture of topsoil and **Leafgro** 1/2" to 1" thick, is recommended. Rake out the entire area in order to create a fine, level seedbed.

We strongly recommend Barenbrug [Water saver RTF grass seed](#) or [Turf Blue](#) or [HGT bluegrass blend](#) or for the shade [Roozens shady grass mixture](#) for their superior performance. Overseed the entire lawn with the grass seed mentioned above. The amount of seeds per 1000 sq.ft. of area to be seeded and the [Earthway spreader](#) settings for the different seeds are as follows:

Seed Type	Tall Fescue	Blue Grass	Roozens Shady Mix
How Much Spreader	Lbs/1000 sqft Setting	Lbs/1000 sqft Setting	Lbs/1000 sqft Setting
Location: Full Sun	8 Lb #17	3 Lb #12	
50% Sun	5.5 Lb #15	2 Lb #10	
Shade			3 Lb #15 - #17

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. After seeding, gently rake the seeds into the seedbed with a hard tine rake. This ensures good seed to soil contact.

After seeding apply [Turf Trust 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 feeding and the late fall feeding, which happens when you stop mowing and well before the lawn goes dormant. The energy is stored by the plants in the roots and the crown, in the form of carbohydrates.

Cover the seed with Bulk leafgro or **Salt Hay**. The salt hay comes in a straw size bale and covers approx. 750 to 1000 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 without doing damage to your new lawn.

Cover seeds on **smaller lawns** with **Leafgro or Sphagnum peatmoss**. **Leafgro or Sphagnum peatmoss** will facilitate seed establishment by covering seeds, preventing run off, keeping birds away and keeping seeds moist. Each bag covers an area of 40-50 square feet.

Begin the watering campaign. Wet the new lawn down thoroughly but not to the point of runoff. For the next 10 to 14 days, water 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 water the lawn for 4 minutes per 1000 sq. ft. without causing puddling or runoff.

3-5 days after seeding apply kick start to aid in seed germination. One week after seed germinates apply [Kick Start](#) again.

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