



Overseeding for Older or Patchy Lawns

The best way to revive an older lawn to follow these five steps:

- 1) Core Aeration
- 2) Seeding or Overseeding
- 3) Topdressing with Compost
- 4) Proper Watering
- 5) Submit a New Lawn Variance with the Water and Sewer Department

Step 1: Core Aeration

Core aeration removes plugs or cores of soil and thatch from the lawn 2—3 inches long (the longer, the better) and deposits them on the top of the lawn. Core aeration reduces soil compaction, creating a channel through which oxygen, water and nutrients can penetrate the soil. It also makes for a perfect temporary home for your new grass seed to germinate.

Step 2: Seeding or Overseeding

Distribute good quality seed by hand or seeder. Broadcast the seed walking two perpendicular directions over the area to evenly apply the seed. Water lightly to wet the seed and soil for better germination.

Step 3: Topdressing with Compost

Soil on the Front Range is low in organic matter and alkaline, and compost is the best choice for topdressing the lawn since it is high in organic matter. Organic matter improves soil aeration and fertility, water infiltration, and both water- and nutrient-holding capacity. Organic matter also is an important energy source for bacteria, fungi, and earthworms living in the soil. Purchase screened and finished compost from a reputable landscape company. Manures that are not completely composted are too high in salt and will burn your seedlings. Spread your compost evenly over your lawn and rake any areas where the compost is too thick. Water the entire area to wet the compost.

Step 4: Submit a new lawn variance

Step 5: Watering your lawn

Water lightly for 5-10 days depending on temperature and precipitation. If it is above 80°F, water every day. If it is above 90°Fs, consider watering twice daily. The higher the temperature, the quicker the seed will germinate, but they may also dry out more quickly. These first couple weeks are critical in establishing your seedlings. Stay vigilant to keep the area evenly moist, but not wet or soggy.