



PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ECO-LAWNS

CALCULATE the square footage of your lawn (length x width) to determine the amount of seed you need. In general, eco-lawn mixes have a lighter application rate than conventional turf grass. Refer to the product label or our website for specific application rates. If applied too heavily, one species may crowd out another.

PREPARE soil using the method of your choice (sod cut, solarize, sheet mulch, etc). Add any necessary soil amendments such as lime, compost and Profile soil conditioner. An application of organic starter fertilizer is recommended. Smooth and firm the area to be seeded. Note that eco-lawns containing flowers and herbs perform best when sown on bare soil. In the spring, plant after soil temperatures reach 50 degrees or warmer, the temperature required to trigger germination. In the fall, plant at least 6–8 weeks before your first anticipated hard frost (28 degrees for more than one hour).

MIX seed thoroughly to ensure even distribution. Divide amount of seed you need into two halves.

DISTRIBUTE the first half of seed over the entire area, then distribute the second half in the opposing direction. A broadcast spreader will help to achieve an even application, though small areas may be seeded by hand. Direct seed-to-soil contact is needed. Do not bury seed.

WATER to keep seed moist at all times during the germination period—at least 3 weeks or until the seedlings are an inch or so tall. This may mean watering for brief periods three or more times per day, depending on weather conditions. For the next 3–4 weeks, continue to water daily to ensure survival of the seedlings. Gradually water less frequently but more deeply to encourage root growth. *If planted in spring, prevent the lawn from going dormant in the first summer season, which may require a deep watering once or twice a week.*

WAIT for seeds to sprout. Try to keep off tender planting for about 6 weeks or until vegetation reaches 3-4 inches tall. Initially, the stand will be thin, allowing room for growth. Eco-lawns are not instant lawns but are the result of a maturation process that fills in slowly. Your new lawn will be considered fully established after it has gone through one winter.

MOW the lawn (at about 4 inches tall) to encourage plants to tiller out and spread, removing only the top third of growth. Those with annual flowers, like Fleur de Lawn, may wish to enjoy the blooms before a first mow. A PT 799 Microclover® lawn benefits from early and occasional mowing to retain dwarf features.

REMEMBER not to use broadleaf herbicide or 'weed-and-feed' products as they will kill components of your eco-lawn. Alert your lawn maintenance contractors about this, too.

ENJOY!