

Overseeding Residential and Commercial Properties
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Overseeding is a general requirement due to the fact that (1) bermudagrass and all other warm season grasses will go winter dormant and (2) growth for recuperative potential is minimal when night time temperatures are 55°F or below for bermudagrass.

Overseeding procedure:

- 1) If the bermudagrass thatch is 1/2" or more in bermudagrass, get rid of the thatch in midsummer, by verticutting at least 8 to 10 weeks before overseeding. DO NOT verticut heavily at overseeding. It is bad for the bermuda!
- 2) Stop all nitrogen fertilization 30 days before overseeding. If you must have green bermuda, use IRON instead during this time.
- 3) Allow the bermudagrass to almost "double" its normal height just prior to overseeding. This may take 10 or 12 days of no-mowing. This raises the bermuda leaves "up in the air" so when you cut the grass again at the "regular mow height", you cut off most of the leaves, but leave the upright naked stem (important for next spring's bermuda growth).
- 4) Slowly cut the grass back to the original mowing height.
- 5) Drop the mowing height 1 more notch.
- 6) Pick or bag up the clippings.
- 7) Seed the overseed ryegrass in two directions using a calibrated spreader, at the rate of 15 lbs per 1000 ^{ft}2 (625 lbs/acre).
- 8) Drag the seed with a rake or chain link fence on large grass areas.
- 9) Roll with a heavy roller if possible.
- 10) Irrigate 4 times per day for short periods to keep the top 1/2" of soil wet.
- 11) When the seedlings are at a height of 1.25 inches, mow the turf DRY at 1.0 inch.
- 12) Apply 16-20-0 at 4 lbs of product/1000 ^{ft}2 . Water in.
- 13) Change to sprinklers to come on either once a day applying no more than 1/4" water per day. After 3-4 days, change the sprinklers to put on 1/4" once every 3 days. Mow when the grass is 33% taller than the desired turf height.
- 14) Most residences and commercial properties are mowed just once per week, so mow TALL. Set the mower to 2.5 inches and the next week it should be 3 1/4" (no more) when you mow the overseeded lawn again to 2.5 inches.
- 15) Cut back on water as the temperatures get cooler. See www.ag.arizona.edu/azmet and TURF for water amounts.