

Another useful tip from Power Equipment Warehouse...

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GRASS SEED

DON'T BUY SEED WITHOUT DOING SOME HOMEWORK:

Choosing the right grass seed for your yard can make the difference between a nightmare and a dream.

Consider the amount of time you are willing to spend maintaining your yard, research a grass seed that will be low maintenance, less susceptible to disease, pests and weeds, and be sure it will be the color you want. What purpose does your lawn serve? Is it a decorative area, will it control erosion, or is it a play area? Certain seeds are created for specific needs.

Consulting with your local State Extension Office will offer you a wealth of information on the type of soil you in your yard, the level of acidity in the soil, and simply what grows best in the climate you live in. Don't forget to mention if it will be in a sunny or shady area, and make note of where you took the sample from.

Bargain grass seed often grows a hodge-podge of ugly grass clumps and weeds that make an unsightly lawn. The best way to grow an attractive lawn is with a top quality grass seed. But, how do you know good seed from bad? Empty seed hulls, stems, and fillers can make up a significant amount of the material in a bag of bargain grass seed. How does it get there? Top quality grass seed means top quality cleaning to remove empty seed hulls, stems, dirt and other material found in the field. Bargain grass seed is often not cleaned using sophisticated machinery, leaving you with the dirt.

If you look at a bag of grass seed, it has a little patch of information about the contents. Most people don't look at it, and that's too bad. That little patch tells you how much of the seed inside will sprout. Quality seed is considered to have a germination rate of 85% or more. Bargain seed often has a lower rate, meaning you will have to use more of that bargain seed and weed to get the same amount of grass to grow.

If you have large bare spots, or areas where the grass has died, you need to get to the "root" of the problem before re-seeding. You could have an insect infestation or a lawn disease. Large brown patches in your lawn could be caused by grubs. Usually if you have grubs you have moles (you will see the tunneling and mounds in your lawn). Apply a grub control product from the foundation of your house out to the edges of your lawn following the directions on the bag for re-application.

Remember, a lush lawn will prevent weeds, and consider that your lawn keeps you and your house cool. The air above your lawn can be as much as 30 degrees cooler than the air above your driveway.