



Caring for your lawn

Basic guide to sowing and maintaining a healthy lawn

When to sow a lawn

- Grass seed is best sown from late summer to mid-autumn; there is less competition from weeds and the soil is warm and damp from rain. Perfect for seeds to germinate.
- If you miss the opportunity to sow in autumn, try in mid-spring, but only if you can give the new grass plenty of water. Do not attempt to sow in summer – it is unlikely you will be able to give the lawn enough water to prevent it from dying.



Choosing seed

- Buy a seed mixture that is right for your garden. In most gardens, a hard-wearing family lawn mixture, containing rye grass, would be suitable.

Soil preparation

- Prepare the soil by skimming off any old grass, removing large stones and weeds, and then roughly levelling.
- Fork over the site and rake level to leave a fine finish.
- Firm the soil by walking over, placing weight on your heels and rake again.
- Two or three days before the seed is to be sown, lightly rake in a granular fertiliser



How to sow seeds

- Mark out the area to be sown into square metres.
- Shake the box to mix up seeds.
- A good rule of thumb is to spread seed at 50g per square metre (or at the rate it says on the packet). Weigh out the seed to cover each square metre into a container and mark the level on the outside to act as a guide.
- Split each 50g in half and scatter seed in one direction across a square and then spread the rest in the opposite direction.
- After sowing, lightly rake over the area and water.

Aftercare

- Do not walk across the soil. You can also protect the seed from birds by stretching fruit netting over the top.
- Regularly water the seed, especially during dry spells.
- Carefully weed the area, removing any weeds before they flower. As the grass continues to grow, it will stifle weed growth.
- When the new lawn is 5cm (2in) high, cut with a rotary mower to 2.5cm (1in). Carefully rake up the clippings. Do this for the next four cuts.



Please be aware that neither IcenI, your landlord or the builder are responsible for any making good to the lawn, should the seed fail to take