

# Fact Sheet

## Replacing or Overseeding Your Lawn with a Low-Water Seed Blend

There are several low-water seed blends on the market in the Valley: fescue blends including the popular Eco-Lawn™; Enviro-Turf, which is a blend of three fescues and perennial rye grass; buffalo grass; and blue grama grass. From the chart below, select the product that best suits your growing environment.

<b>PRODUCT or SEED (see photo above)</b>	<b>SHADE TOLERANCE</b>	<b>WATER NEEDS</b>	<b>IDEAL SOIL</b>	<b>GROWTH SPREAD</b>	<b>COOL or WARM SEASON*</b>
Eco-Lawn™	Excellent	Low	Sand/silt-loam	Clumps	Cool
Enviro-turf	Excellent	Low to medium	sand/silt loam	Clumps	Cool
Buffalo Grass	None – requires full sun.	Low	Silt-clay	Stolons	Warm
Blue Grama	Low	Low	Silt-clay	Clumps	Warm

\* In the Okanagan Valley, cool season grasses tend to be green year-round due to heavy irrigation. They are naturally dormant (brown) in the summer's dry heat. Warm season grasses are dormant from October to April/May. The ideal time to seed a cool season lawn is late August to late September. Seeding in April also works well. Warm season grasses need more warmth to germinate and grow; late spring to mid-June is the best time to seed or plant plugs for these grasses.

Note: Buffalo grass plugs (small rooted plants) may be available.

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## IMPORTANT!

To experience a successful lawn installation, regardless of the method, pay particular attention to:

- preparing the site including killing or removing as many weeds as possible
- ensuring the seed receives regular moisture during germination through to establishment (typically one year)

NOTE: The best place to have a successful lawn is a flat location with good soil, that is easy to water (created in the shape of the sprinkler pattern) and easy to mow.

Click [here](#) for general instructions on seeding a lawn.

There are a few ways to overseed your lawn; choose the method that best fits the current state of your lawn. In all cases, remove or destroy as many weeds as possible!

### LAWN STATE: GOOD CONDITION

- Use Eco-Lawn™, Enviro-Turf or another fescue blend.
- Mow the lawn as short as possible, then rough it up with a garden rake or lawn cultivator. You want the seed to come in contact with soil. Alternately, aerate the lawn.
- Cover with 1/8 – 1/4" of compost or enriched soil and tamp down.
- Seed according to package directions.
- During germination, keep the seeds moist with daily short watering. If you wish to have your low-water lawn overtake the Kentucky bluegrass lawn, repeat this procedure for 3-4 years (in April and August/September, if possible). Note that once the new lawn seed is established (after the first year), a reduction in supplemental water will result in the remaining Kentucky bluegrass going dormant. This gives the more drought tolerant grasses an advantage to get established.

### LAWN STATE: FAIR CONDITION

- If your lawn is in fair condition, you have a couple of options.  
Option 1: Use Eco-Lawn™, Enviro-Turf or another fescue blend. Follow the instructions for a lawn in Good Condition (above).  
Option 2: If there are more bare patches than not after removing or destroying weeds, you may want to cover the area with topsoil or a topsoil/compost mix and seed into bare soil. Choose the lawn seed based on where the lawn is sited on your landscape. (See chart on previous page.) Test the soil for pH, as most turf grasses prefer acidic to neutral soil. Click here for general instructions on seeding a lawn.

### LAWN STATE: POOR CONDITION

- If your lawn is in poor condition and badly infested with weeds, consider [removing the lawn](#) then start again.
- Or, you can cover the area with topsoil or a topsoil/compost mix to a depth of 2-3". Do not simply cover the area if you have bindweed or another noxious weed in your lawn.
- Choose the lawn seed based on where the lawn is sited on your landscape. (See chart on previous page.) Test the soil for pH, as most turf grasses prefer acidic to neutral soil. Click [here](#) for general instructions on seeding a lawn.