

Sowing a New Lawn

A lush, green lawn lifts the garden both visually and physically – visually by *looking* good and physically by *feeling* good! While Ready Lawn is a great option for small areas, sowing from seed is a more economical solution for large areas.

Effective use of space

Gardens are naturally ever-evolving as plants grow, but they should also change in response to our lifestyle needs. Whereas young children require a wide open, uncluttered play area, teenagers prefer decking areas to hang out with friends. Once kids have flown the coop, intimate entertaining and relaxing spaces become more important. Take a critical look at your lawn and consider possible changes to ensure it still meets your needs.

Important considerations

Areas of shade, where grass struggles to grow, may be best turned into garden or hard surfacing. Large open spaces may be better utilised as intimate garden rooms. Sloping areas may be levelled; or different levels introduced to create interest and separate different areas. A change in shape can also effect a change of style. For example, introducing straight lines where there was once curves, will impart a formal style. Redesigning the lawn also provides an opportunity to lay garden edging, build raised garden beds or introduce areas of paving to place seating areas. Once your design is complete, the hard work can begin...



Step by Step

- 1 Mark out** the lawn area (or areas), removing existing planting where necessary.
- 2 Spray existing lawn** with glyphosate to kill off grass and weeds.
- 3 Turn over the soil** once existing lawn has died off. Hand dig small areas or rotary hoe large areas. Watch for drains and cables and remove any major rubble as you go.
- 4 Leave soil to weather** and allow dormant weed seeds to germinate. Spray again with glyphosate.
- 5 Lay drainage coil** in poorly drained soils.
- 6 Start the levelling process** once weeds have died off:
 - carry out any major restructuring and releveling; build retaining walls, raised garden beds and steps.
 - level lawn areas using a long straight edged piece of timber.
- 7 Compact soil** by trampling small areas, or rolling large areas and level again.
- 8 Sow lawn seed** according to instructions. Select the right seed for the right place e.g. Tui Superstrike 'Hot & Dry' for hot, sunny areas; 'Superfine' for small, well manicured lawns.
- 9 Rake soil** lightly to cover the seed.
- 10 Water lawn** daily until seed germinates and is growing strongly.
- 11 Mow the lawn** on the highest blade setting, once grass reaches 5-6cm high. Gradually reduce the mowing height to 3cm high on successive mowings.
- 12 Fertilise the lawn** after 3 – 4 cuts at half dose, and again in spring at the full dose.



No-mow lawns

Consider dichondra (pictured), cotula, chamomile or prostrate thyme as a 'no-mow' alternative.