



# DORMANT SEEDING BLUEGRAS, FESCUE, AND RYEGRASS

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(Updated October 2016)

**Dormant Seeding** is the process of putting down grass seed when soil temperatures are consistently below 40°F, normally early February to March. This practice applies to bluegrass and fescue blends or mixes such as **Soil Service Garden Centers' KC Marathon** or **KC Endurance**. Unlike these cool season grasses, zoysia, bermuda and buffalo grass are seeded in late May/early June.

The idea is that seed falls into soil cracks created by normal winter freeze/thaw cycles and is then lightly covered when soil thaws. You can seed over light snow or use a **Garden Weasel** to rough up the ground and lightly incorporate the seed for best seed/soil contact. Since the soil is cold, the seed lies “dormant” until soil temperatures favor early spring germination. Furthermore, temperature fluctuations help crack the hard seed hull which gives grass a head start on germination and root growth- important for grass to survive summer heat stress. Dormant seeding can be successful, but it isn't without risk. For this reason, this practice is usually limited to smaller areas or when laying sod is impractical.



## FOLLOW UP FERTILIZATION

Fertilizing with **Ferti-lome New Lawn Starter** can be made at the first sign of germination, and then a follow up fertilization in April- early May should be made with a **slow release nitrogen such as Milorganite, available at Soil Service Garden Center.**

## WEED CONTROL ISSUES

Dormant Seeding may conflict with spring weed control and careful attention should be paid to all grassy and broadleaf weed herbicide labels regarding timing restrictions. **Soil Service Garden Center** can provide you the best weed control products for your situation.

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Soil Service Garden Center, Inc.

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