

ALL ABOUT DORMANT SEEDING

WHAT IS DORMANT SEEDING?

To transform your yard into a pollinator lawn, you need to spread your seed mix onto the soil. There are 3 windows when we encourage folks to spread seed mix:

1. Early spring (just after the snow melts)
2. Late summer (mid-August to mid-Sept)
3. **Late Fall (just before the first snowfall)**



Dormant seeding is the act of spreading seed in late fall so it becomes "dormant" under the winter snow and then germinates in the spring.

WHY DORMANT SEEDING?



Dormant seeding gives your pollinator lawn a head start over a lawn established in the spring. It also saves you from working in cold, muddy spring soil.

WHEN DO I DORMANT SEED?

Spread your pollinator lawn seed mix in late fall, ideally **right before the first snow** (usually early/mid-Nov). You want the soil to be cold (35-45°F) but not frozen.

This timing is important. Why?

- The snow acts like a blanket and protects seed from birds.
- Letting the seed freeze onto the ground helps it stay in place without germinating through the cold months.

HOW DO I DORMANT SEED?

There are two methods for alternative turf/pollinator lawn installation. For both, remember that your seed **must** have direct soil contact to germinate. Consider the following:



If your current yard has

- thin and/or patchy growth
- lots of bare spots
- minimal weeds

Then you may want to OVERSEED your lawn

Overseeding means spreading your seed mix directly onto your existing turfgrass.

Tip: Before spreading seed, mow your lawn lower than normal, to about 2 inches in height.



- thick grass growth
- recurring, tough weeds

Then you may want to have a NEW LAWN RENOVATION

This means removing your old lawn and spreading your seed mix directly onto bare soil.

A new lawn renovation requires more time and labor, but ensures direct seed-to-soil contact.

Tip: Save some seed to fill in thin/patchy spots the following spring.



RESULTS

Next spring, your seed will germinate!



- In year one, expect spotty germination of flowers.
- Expect full germination in year 2 and forward.