

How to Pre Germinate Grass Seed

1

Work out how much seed you are going to need and check the weather forecast for the next few days to ensure you have a window to apply the seed. Application rate of between 20-35grams per m2.

2

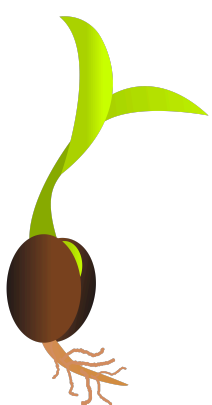
Soak the seed in tubs or buckets for 24hrs. Then the water needs to be completely drained. You can do this using a pair of tights or pouring the seed through a sieve. Once drained put in a warm location such as a boiler cupboard or heated shed/office

Once/twice a day for two days stir the seed around, to ensure even moisture distribution. I find tipping from one tub/bucket to another a couple of times works best.

3

After three days with constant checking look out for the seed to chit. If not ready, leave another day or until you see the small white shoot pop out.

Once you are at this stage you need to get it out onto the pitch/green. Do not try and hold out for another day as it will be too far gone.



Sowing is always better if made with a lot of seed/soil contact via a disc or dimple seeder or sorrel roll. Any machine that shallowly impacts the soil will do.

Perennial ryegrass for example likes to be sown into the soil, no deeper than 15mm in depth.

The exception to this, would be on a barely grassed sandy soil where the seed should be able to pull itself into the surface. A light sand dressing may also be applied to help the seed.

Cover with germination sheets, fleece, debris netting anything to keep the birds off and keep a bit of extra warmth in.

Top Tips

Avoid frosts, young roots and shoots are susceptible to frost damage.

Check the weather before considering, as once the chitting process has started, there is no going back. The seed will ruin if you cannot get it down before roots getting going.



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