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LAWNS NEW PLANTING

Seven steps
when planting
new lawns

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1. The soil should be dug up to one spade depth, which will bury any existing plant growth as green manure, resulting in increased soil humus content and providing organic fertiliser. As additional soil improvement, 4-5 bags of garden compost can be added per 100 m². Apply compost evenly and work it in well. This step will also break up the soil into smaller particles.

2. Rake the seedbed in order to clear out any plant remains, large stones, etc. and level the surface.

3. The soil should now rest for two to three weeks, so that it can settle down and any weeds remaining in the topsoil can germinate and emerge.

4. After the rest period, loosen the surface to a depth of 2-3 cm with a rake in order to remove the weed growth and even out any bumps. The soil can then be rolled or tamped down using a wooden board.

5. If the surface isn't too wet, evenly sow the desired lawn mixture at the recommended sowing rate, either by hand or using a broadcast seeder. Grass can be sown from spring to late autumn, with the best months being April, May, June, September and October. Ideally, sowing should take place on a day with no rain or wind and light cloud cover. In order to

provide optimal conditions for seeding the lawn, spread a special fertiliser (starter fertiliser) over the new seeds. Gently rake the grass seeds and fertiliser, roll or tamp and, if necessary, water moderately to keep the seeds from drying out.

6. In the following three to four weeks, the newly planted surface must be kept from drying out. If necessary, water using a sprinkler. It is important that the sprinkler uses fine nozzles, so that the water doesn't wash the seeds away and the soil does not become muddy and hard. The best time to water is in the early morning or late evening.

7. Once the grass has grown to around 8-10 cm (hand height), the young lawn will be mowed for the first time. The lawnmower blades should be as sharp as possible, since the grass plants are still very delicate. Furthermore, only the tips (1-2 cm) should be cut in the first mowing. Subsequent cuts can be made at the desired height. Frequent mowing, especially during early development, will lead to a thick, vigorous sward in a very short timeframe.

