

be used to repair divots. This is an excellent time to involve coaches and players to help repair the field after heavy use.

What about pre-germinating seed?

Some sports turf managers pre-germinate seeds to speed up establishment time when faster turf cover is desired on heavily used fields. Mike Andresen, athletic field manager at Iowa State University, suggests the following procedure:

1. begin with 50 lb of seed in a nylon bag
2. place the bag in a 50 gallon barrel and cover it with water and then cover the barrel with plastic.
3. remove the plastic and change the water each day
4. aerify the area to be seeded on the 4th day. Empty the water from the barrel and spread seed by hand on the aerified area.
5. apply a starter fertilizer and a recommended fungicide to control Pythium in the summer or Gray Leafspot if seeding in August.
6. use a verticutter to slice in seed and break up plugs.
7. lightly rake the area and roll with a medium-weight roller (200-500 lb)
8. water the area until establishment is complete

Dormant seeding

Dormant seeding is done in late fall or early winter. It can increase the chance of having improved turf cover in the spring on soils that are poorly drained or soils

frequently too wet to work. Dormant seedings can germinate 2-3 weeks earlier in the spring than conventional spring seeding.

However, to improve your chance of success the seeding must take place late in the season, when there is no chance of seed germination, which usually occurs when the soil temperature is above 50°. Check the soil temperature at the 1" depth to make sure it is not higher than 40-45°. The ultimate success of a dormant seeding is determined by the winter conditions. You can expect some seed mortality so the seeding rate at this time should be increased 50%. On areas that may be prone to erosion mulching is suggested to help stabilize the

soil.

Another window of opportunity for dormant seeding would be during periods when the night time temperatures reach freezing, the day time temperatures warm up and there is no snow cover. These conditions allow for the broadcast seed to work its way into the soil. In the Northeast this time period occurs around late February or early March.

Sports Turf Seeding Schedule									
Adapted from Dave Minner, Iowa State									
	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Football Practice Field	* C PR	* C PR	* D PR			*	* C PR	* C PR	* D, Dor KB + PR
Fall Football		D,B KB once	D,B KB+PR				* C,B Weekly	* C,B	* C,B Final seeding KB+PR
Multi-Use Fall Football + Spring Soccer	* C,B,D KB	* C,B,D Weekly KB	* C,B,D Weekly PR	D once			* C,B,D Weekly KB+PR	* C,B,D Weekly KB+PR	* D, Dor Once KB+PR
* field is in use		B= broadcast seed			KB= Kentucky bluegrass				
Dor=dormant seeding		C= cleat-in seed			PR= Perennial ryegrass				
		D= drill seed			TF= Tall fescue				