



# Columbia Nursery

## Planting & Maintaining Lawns in Northwest Montana (Zones 3–5)

### 1. Choose Cold-Hardy Grass Seed Blends

Select cool-season grasses well-suited to cold climates. Recommended varieties include:

- Kentucky Bluegrass: Dense, lush, and cold-hardy but slower to germinate
- Fine Fescue (Creeping Red, Hard, Chewings): Shade-tolerant and drought-resistant
- Perennial Ryegrass: Fast germination and excellent for overseeding

A mix of bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass often provides the best year-round performance.

### 2. Plant at the Right Time

Best times to seed or overseed:

- Late summer to early fall (August to mid-September): Cooler temps, reduced weed pressure, and ideal root growth
- Spring (late April–May): Acceptable, but competition with weeds is higher

Ensure soil temperature is at least 50°F for successful germination.

### 3. Prepare the Soil Properly

Loosen the soil to a depth of 3–4 inches to promote seed-to-soil contact. Add compost or screened topsoil to improve structure. Test soil pH (ideal is 6.0–7.0) and amend with lime or sulfur if needed. After seeding, lightly rake and roll with a lawn roller.

### 4. Water Correctly

Keep soil moist during germination with light watering 1–2 times daily. After establishment, water deeply and less frequently—1 to 1.5 inches per week including rainfall. Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation and disease. Avoid overwatering.

### 5. Mow High and Maintain Sharp Blades

Set mowing height to 3–3.5 inches to encourage deeper roots and shade out weeds. Mow when the grass is dry and avoid cutting more than 1/3 of the blade at once. Use sharp mower blades and leave clippings on the lawn to naturally fertilize (grasscycling).

### 6. Feed & Defend Your Lawn

Fertilize 2–4 times per year with a slow-release, nitrogen-rich fertilizer such as our Perfection Workhorse or Perfection Long Haul Fertilizer.

- Key times: Early spring, early summer, and early fall

Aerate compacted soil in spring or fall. Dethatch if the thatch layer exceeds ½ inch. Spot-treat weeds or use pre-



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emergent weed control with caution, especially on young lawns. A fall feeding is especially important to build winter hardiness.

## Product Recommendations

Soils	Feed & Fertilize
Topsoil (2-4")	Perfection Workhorse Fertilizer 27-7-14 (new lawns)
	Perfection Longhaul Fertilizer 35-0-6 (established lawns)
	Milorganite Nitrogen Fertilizer 6-4-0 (gentle, won't burn lawns)
	Nutririch Fertilizer 4-3-2 Ca7% (all-purpose fertilizer)
	BioAdvanced 5-in-1 Weed n Feed

Weed & Protect
BioAdvanced 5-in-1 Weed n Feed
BioAdvanced Season Long Weed Control for Lawns

Trouble Shoot
Bayer Advanced Fungus Control for Lawns
BioAdvanced 2 in 1 Moss & Algae Killer
BioAdvanced Complete Insect Killer Lawn & Turf