



## **SEEDING / OVER-SEEDING Using California Native Grasses**

Native grasses control soil erosion, reduce dust, control ground temperatures, reduce noise and recharge ground water. Properly maintained sod is one of the most cost effective and environmentally beneficial products in



### **SEEDING/OVER-SEEDING**

Proper timing of seed applications is critical in determining the level of success that will occur. Fall and early spring are the best seasons for establishing California Native Grass species. Overseed with the same variety that matches your existing sod. Seed is available by contacting Delta Bluegrass Company at 1-800-637-8873.

#### **SEEDING NEW AREAS – Bare Ground Applications**

Measure the area to be planted, length x width. For example 10 feet x 20 feet would equal 200 square feet.

For new construction, rototill the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. If you have heavy clay soil, apply a soil amendment such as gypsum or compost at the recommended package rate.

Level the seed bed to eliminate high or low spots and roll the area to make the soil firm. If possible water the area for a week to allow further settling then rake out the area to achieve your final grade.

Apply Bolero™ Sod & Seed Starter fertilizer on top of soil before applying the seed. This will provide the essential nutrients vital to good seedling growth. Repeat this procedure in six weeks to promote a deep root system and yield best results.

Apply the seed at the recommended rate of application. Do not increase seeding rate, applying too much seed can lead to thatch, disease and pest problems. Lightly drag the area to cover the seed and begin irrigation immediately.

At this critical time, soil moisture conditions should be maintained at optimum levels without creating localized dry spots or over wet conditions. This is best achieved by applying short / frequent irrigation for at least 4 to 6 weeks.

## **OVERSEEDING PROCEDURES – Spot Seeding**

To overseed and introduce new grass coverage to an area, mow or weed eat the area without removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during any single mow cycle. Catch or rake off clippings to keep soil surface open to receive new seed.

Thin or bare areas should then be roughened up to open soil to accept seed. Seed to soil contact is critical and best achieved by raking out or removing dead plant material. This will ensure optimum germination and seedling establishment.

Overseeding or spot seeding can be accomplished by using a broadcast spreader or seeding by hand. Seed should be applied at the recommended rate. Seeds should be touching each other but not piled on top of one another. Applying too much seed can be counter productive leading to thatch, disease and pest problems.

When seeding an entire turf stand that is thinning out, you have the option to aerify the area. With the use of an aerification machine, small cores are pulled from the ground. The holes created will allow oxygen into the root zone, improve water penetration, and reduce compaction.

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