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RENOVATING OR OVERSEEDING AN EXISTING LAWN

Renovating, or overseeding, involves revitalizing an old lawn without removing all the existing grass. Many old, thin, weed-infested home lawns are completely restored using this approach. Renovation is most successful when more than half of the existing lawn is still producing desirable turfgrass.

1. **Remove thatch.** If thatch (dead, dry vegetation) has built up more than an inch, remove the thatch with a rake. Thoroughness is important; seeding into thatch results in poor seed germination.
2. **Remove clippings.** Using a mower with a grass-catcher attachment, collect and remove the discarded thatch. For small areas a spring rake works well.
3. **Apply compost.** Spread about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of compost over the areas to be seeded.
4. **Reseed.** Uniformly scatter seeds over the soil surface using a drop or rotary spreader. Hand-sprinkling seeds also works well on small, irregular patches that need overseeding.
5. **Rake.** Lightly drag or rake the seed into the upper $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of soil and compost.
6. **Roll.** Roll the area to ensure firm contact between seed and soil.
7. **Mulch** (optional). Sprinkle weed-free straw (salt marsh hay) lightly over the seeded area.
8. **Water.** As with new lawns, keep the overseeded area moist at all times during the germination and early seeding stages.
9. **Mow.** Continue mowing the lawn at approximately 2-2½ inches.