



JACKLIN[®] S E E D

by **Simplot**

Research Newsletter

January 2020

Now is the time! Dormant Seeding Cool Season Turfgrasses

This past summer, a Colorado golf course superintendent called us for tips on dormant-seeding perennial ryegrass. This is not a topic that comes up often, but in reviewing the available research, I discovered that it may be a useful seeding strategy when needed.

In the case of the Colorado golf course, a fall fairway renovation prevented the superintendent from seeding during the optimal late-summer window. He wondered if dormant seeding would be better than waiting for spring. Several studies I found suggest dormant seeding can be more successful than spring seeding, while only slightly less successful than late summer seeding. The key is in the timing, and the whims of Mother Nature. *continued, p.2*



This Illinois sod farm seeded a custom sod mix in late November, and this picture was taken 6 months later in late May. The seed was a mix of cool-season grasses including Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and fine fescue.

Visit us at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan 25-30



The new Simplot-Jacklin[®] Seed booth at the 2019 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. The spacious, modern booth has an impressive Simplot topper, making us easy to find at the GIS in Orlando.

If you attended the Golf Industry Show in San Diego last year you probably saw the new, larger, and highly visible Simplot Turf and Horticulture booth. The new booth combines several Simplot Turf and Horticulture businesses into one impressive space (Jacklin[®] Seed, Best, Simplot Partners).

We invite you to stop by and talk to us about our best varieties for golf, like **L-93 XD** creeping bentgrass, our new bentgrass with broad disease and pest tolerance. Find us in Orlando on the trade show floor at booth #2942, next to the New Product Showcase. We look forward to seeing you there! 🌱

L-93 XD
CREEPING BENTGRASS

Dormant seeding, continued

Below is a summary of dormant seeding suggestions from several articles. For more details on dormant seeding see the links at the end of this article.

Timing: Wait to seed until soil temperatures are below 50 degrees F (10 degrees C), and chances of a late season warm spell have passed. In northern climates with colder winters, this is typically in late November. In locations with less severe winters, consider delaying dormant seeding until January or February.

Seeding Rate: Seeding rate recommendations differ. Some studies suggest using the same rate as typical late summer seeding rates, while others suggest higher rates due to a lower potential germination rate for dormant seeding.

Increase the seeding rate if erosion is a potential problem.

Fertilizer: Wait to apply starter fertilizer in the spring shortly after germination when the seedlings can use it.

Mulch: Avoid dark colored mulches that may have a warming affect.

Biodegradable erosion control mats offer protection for seed on windy sites or slopes.

Any cool season turf can be successfully dormant-seeded, but an article from University of Massachusetts suggests that Kentucky bluegrass may have a higher overall success rate due to its slow establishment rate.

The biggest risk to dormant seeding is a late fall or early spring warm spell causing the seeds to begin germination, then a return to freezing temperatures may kill young seedlings. Kentucky bluegrass, with its slower germination, is less likely to be affected by a brief warm spell compared to ryegrass or fescue.

More information on dormant seeding can be found in the following articles:

Lanier, Jason D. [*“Late Season Establishment Considerations.” Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 26 Oct.*](#)

[2016, ag.umass.edu/turf/fact-sheets/late-season-establishment-considerations.](http://2016.ag.umass.edu/turf/fact-sheets/late-season-establishment-considerations)

Reicher, Zac. [*“Turf Tip 10/25/2007.” Purdue Agronomy Home Page, 2007, www.agry.purdue.edu/turfnew/tips/2007/10_25seed.html.*](#)

Ruemmele, Bridget. [*“Grounds Maintenance.” Seeding during Dormancy, grounds-mag.com/mag/grounds_maintenance_seeding_during_dormancy/.*](#)

Turfgrass Producers International Orlando Conference



On February 17-20, 2020, the TPI (Turfgrass Producers International) will host their annual conference, also in Orlando, Florida.

Cathy Sawyer will be representing Jacklin® Seed again in 2020. Please come by to say “hello” to Cathy, and ask her about the new Jacklin® varieties available soon for turf production, including “**After Midnight**” Kentucky bluegrass. You can also find After Midnight in the 2017 Kentucky bluegrass National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) tests. 🌱



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