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### **Dormant Seeding of Turfgrass**

Seeding of cool-season turfgrasses (tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass) is recommended in September to allow adequate establishment going in to winter. When we miss that window, however, dormant seeding could be an option in December through February when its' too cold for seed to germinate.

Good seed-soil contact is vital and can be achieved using multiple methods. One is seeding after a light snowfall that allows you to see the bare spots to seed, but is enough so when snow melts it puts seed into soil contact where it will germinate in the spring.

If soil is moist, you can simply apply to the soil surface, with freeze/thaw cycles opening small pockets on the soil surface that capture and hold seed. As soil dries, the pockets collapse and cover the seed. If soils are drier – and unfrozen - you can also use core aerating, verticutting or hand raking followed by a broadcast application of seed immediately after.

Seeding done by any of the above methods will germinate as early as possible in the spring, and that means herbicide restrictions may come in to play. Most preemergence herbicides require turf be well established prior to application. Before applying herbicides following seeding, always read and follow label directions.