



Going For the Green!



It's fall and that means overseeding season is upon us! It may surprise you to know that more lawns in Chandler are overwatered in the **winter** months than in summer. The option of having a year-round green lawn requires considerable investment in labor, materials and the additional water required. Here are a few tips for establishing a winter lawn this fall. Using the proper techniques can save you money and help avoid spikes in water consumption.

- 1) Wait to overseed until nighttime temperatures are consistently below 65F - usually mid-October to mid-November.
- 2) Do not fertilize 4 - 6 weeks before overseeding. This will slow the growth of the Bermuda grass
- 3) 2 weeks before overseeding, change the setting on your ET controller to "user programmed, no ET" for your turf stations and cut the watering frequency in half.
- 4) Lightly verticut lawn areas to allow seed to contact the soil. Blades should only cut 1/4 inch into the soil - deeper will damage Bermuda stolons and rhizomes.
- 5) Scalp the lawn. Clippings can be used as a top-dressing after seed is spread.
- 6) Broadcast seed in two directions to achieve even coverage.
- 7) Cover the seed with 1/4 inch of mulch, clippings from scalping or steer manure to help retain moisture.
- 8) Water 3 - 4 times a day with just enough water to keep the top 1/2 inch of soil wet. Seed should germinate in about 7 days.
- 9) When grass is 1- inch tall, reduce watering to once a day.
- 10) After the second mowing, water once every 2 - 3 days to a depth of 4 - 6 inches.
- 11) When lawn is established, water once every week - usually after the 2nd or 3rd mowing.
- 12) If you have ET or 'Smart' controllers, change the setting to "cool season grass". This will take care of watering your winter lawn until late next spring.