



## *Bucks Country Gardens*

### **The Importance Of Soil Temperature For Your Grass**

Successful turf establishment depends on the proper timing of seeding. Proper timing is determined by the period during the growing season that is a compromise of temperature best for both seed germination and seeding when

1. RAINFALL is most likely, especially if there is no irrigation available
2. When WEED SEED GERMINATION and competition (particularly from annual weedy grasses) will be at a minimum.

#### **SEED GERMINATION**

The temperatures in the table below relate to the soil temperature where the seed is placed. The optimum temperatures for seed germination involve a daily change between two significantly different temperatures. Fortunately, spring and fall offer the daily variation needed for germination.

#### **SHOOT GROWTH**

During the fall and into the following spring there is a longer period when the temperatures are in the 60 –75 degree range than there is in spring going into summer's heat. Therefore, fall planting is PREFERABLE to spring planting.

#### **ROOT GROWTH**

The optimum day temperature for seed germination is higher than that for existing grasses shoot and root growth. As a result, the ideal strategy is an early fall seeding followed by a continual decline in soil temperatures promoting shoot and root growth.

#### **Optimum Temperatures**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEED GERMINATION</b>	<b>SHOOT GROWTH</b>	<b>ROOT GROWTH</b>
Bentgrass	59-86	60-75	50-65
Blue Grass	59-77	60-75	50-65
Fine Fescues	59-77	60-75	50-65
Tall Fescues	68-86	60-75	50-65
Ryegrass	59-7	60-75	50-65

Please feel free to call or stop by Bucks Country Gardens for your individual consultation regarding the grass seed you will be using and the recommended time of application for proper germinating and growing time.