
PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY FOR LAWN ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

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Introduction

In the present fast-paced and stressful lifestyle, green spaces play an important role in maintaining mental peace and environmental balance. A well-maintained lawn not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of homes, parks, institutions, and farmhouses but also provides a pleasant space for recreation, relaxation, and social activities. Because of its uniform green appearance, a lawn is often referred to as the “green carpet” of the landscape.

Importance of Lawns

Lawns contribute significantly to beautifying the surroundings while offering functional value. They help in reducing dust, moderating temperature, and improving air quality. A lush green lawn provides satisfaction to the owner and becomes the center of many garden activities. Beyond its material value, a lawn also has psychological benefits, helping to reduce stress after a long working day.

Suitable Grasses for Lawn Development

Several grass species are suitable for lawn establishment depending on climate, soil type, and water availability. Commonly used lawn grasses include:

- Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
- Korean grass (*Zoysia japonica*)
- Manila grass (*Zoysia matrella*)
- Korean velvet grass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*)

Under Indian conditions, Bermuda grass is considered the most suitable due to its wide adaptability, fast spreading nature, and low cost. It grows well across different agro-climatic regions of the country and requires comparatively less maintenance.

Soil Preparation for Lawn

Proper soil preparation is the foundation of a healthy lawn.

- The ideal soil pH ranges from 5.5 to 7.0
 - Soil should be well-drained, loose, and finely leveled
 - April to June is considered the best period for soil preparation
 - Organic matter such as well-decomposed farmyard manure improves soil structure and fertility
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Methods of Lawn Establishment

Different planting methods are practiced for lawn development, including:

1. Seeding
2. Dibbling of roots
3. Turfing
4. Bricking

Among these, turfing is considered the most effective method for obtaining a dense and uniform lawn, provided sufficient labor is available.

Irrigation and Nutrient Management

Adequate moisture is essential for successful lawn establishment and maintenance.

- Soil moisture should be maintained at around 60% of field capacity for optimum growth
- Fertilization can be done during spring, summer (with rainfall or irrigation), and autumn
- Balanced application of nutrients helps maintain healthy color and dense growth

Mowing and Lawn Care

Regular mowing is necessary to maintain uniform height and attractive appearance.

- Reel mowers are suitable for large lawns

- Rotary mowers are ideal for small home lawns
- Mowing should be done periodically, avoiding removal of excessive leaf area at one time

Weed, Pest, and Disease Management

Weeds are a major challenge in lawn management. In the Indian subcontinent, motha grass (*Cyperus rotundus*) is one of the most problematic weeds. Regular raking and timely management practices help in controlling weed infestation.

Common lawn diseases include various types of patch diseases, while major insect pests such as army worms and green bugs can cause severe damage if not managed in time.

Conclusion

The lawn grass industry has witnessed rapid growth due to increasing demand for landscaping and recreational green spaces. With proper selection of grass species, timely soil preparation, adequate irrigation, balanced fertilization, and regular maintenance, a healthy and attractive lawn can be easily developed. Adoption of scientific lawn management practices not only improves aesthetic value but also contributes to environmental sustainability.

