

## NEW LAWN INSTALLATION

# WARM-SEASON GRASS

Warm-season grass seeding in fall is generally discouraged by specialists due to the high risk of seed desiccation/death.

While warm-season grasses are actively dropping their seed in nature during the fall, those seeds need to go through freezing temperatures or “stratification” to be ready for germination at the optimal time the following year. Seed that is purchased from a seed distributor has already gone through the stratification process and will germinate given the right conditions, even in fall. A cold, dry winter may kill any seeds that germinate this fall, requiring reseeding next year.

**Warm-season grass seed is typically four to five times more expensive than cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or fescue, so winter kill brings a far greater risk.**

If the installation moves forward, [this fact sheet](#) recommended by the CSU extension, provides buffalograss-specific establishment tips, including watering strategy, that are both useful for our region and applicable to many warm-season grasses and blends.

If fall installation is pursued, water only to apply a light application of water at ¼- to ½-inch soil depth and maintain that moisture level throughout establishment. Seeds should emerge in five to ten days at which time less frequent but deeper watering is recommended. Watering should significantly taper off after week four.

Watering warm-season grass seed/sod now will encourage growth of winter annual weeds. A new grass fertilizer with a pre-/post-emergent may help keep weeds at bay. For example, [Scotts Turf Builder Plus Weed Preventer](#) might help.

To apply for a new lawn exception permit during water restrictions, visit [fcgov.com/water-permits](http://fcgov.com/water-permits).