

After months of cooler weather and slower growth, spring is the time many Australian lawns start to wake up.

It's also when the effects of winter can become a little more obvious. Thin areas, bare patches, compacted soil and well-worn tracks from kids, pets and everyday traffic can all leave a lawn looking a little worse for wear.

The good news? Spring provides a great opportunity to repair, refresh or even start again, but before you start throwing seed around, a little preparation can go a long way.

Don't just watch the calendar, watch the conditions

The first warm spring day might have you ready to get outside, but when it comes to lawn establishment, what's happening below the surface matters too.

Soil takes time to warm after winter, and this is particularly important for warm-season grasses such as Couch and Kikuyu. These grasses naturally slow as soil temperatures cool and become more actively growing as conditions warm again.

That means the ideal sowing window won't necessarily arrive at the same time everywhere in Australia. A lawn in Queensland may be ready to get moving well before one in southern Victoria.

Rather than relying on the date alone, look for consistently warmer conditions and warming soil before establishing warm-season grass seed. Spring's combination of warmer soil and relatively mild air temperatures can provide favourable conditions for establishment before the heat of summer arrives.



1. See what winter left behind

Before doing anything, give your lawn a good once-over.

Look for bare or thinning patches, areas that stay shaded for much of the day, worn sections around paths and play areas, and places where the soil has become compacted.

This is also a good opportunity to remove leaves and debris and lightly rake areas where dead material has accumulated.

The aim isn't necessarily to redo the entire lawn. Sometimes a little targeted repair is all that's needed.

2. Prepare before you sow

Grass seed needs good contact with the soil to establish, so simply throwing seed over an unprepared area isn't always going to give you the result you're after.

For bare or damaged areas, remove debris and weeds, loosen the top layer of soil and level out any particularly uneven spots.

If you're starting a lawn from scratch, take the time to prepare the entire area properly. Good preparation now gives your grass a much better foundation for the growing season ahead.



3. Every great lawn starts with the right seed

Here's where things get interesting, because not every lawn needs the same grass seed.

Think about the conditions in your yard and how you actually use the space.

Starting fresh? iO Robust Lawn Seed is a great all-rounder for establishing a new lawn or over sowing degraded areas. Its blend combines perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass and creeping red fescue.

A bit of sun, a bit of shade? iO Sun & Shade Lawn Seed is designed for lawns experiencing a range of conditions, with a blend suited to both sun and shade and good drought tolerance.

Need something that can handle the action? For the parts of the backyard that see plenty of kids, pets and foot traffic, iO Endurance Lawn Seed is blended for hard-wearing, high-traffic areas in warmer climates.

Looking for a warm-season lawn? iO Couch Turbocote Grass Seed is suited to creating a fine-textured, durable lawn that can handle hot, dry conditions and regular wear.

For something vigorous and hardy, iO Kikuyu Turbocote Grass Seed is another warm-season option well suited to larger or high-use areas.

Both Couch and Kikuyu are available in convenient 1kg Grab & Go buckets, making them easy to hand broadcast without specialist equipment.

4. What is Turbocote?

Couch and Kikuyu in the 1kg bucket also feature Turbocote coated seed.

Turbocote combines biostimulants and seaweed concentrate fertiliser with a moisture-absorbent coating designed to support germination and establishment.

It helps:

- Retain important moisture around the emerging seedling
- Improve the plant's ability to absorb nutrients from the soil
- Support root and shoot development
- Improve establishment



- Support recovery from wear and stress

In other words, it's there to help give young Couch and Kikuyu seedlings a good start.

5. Water matters

Once your seed is down, don't forget about it.

Young seedlings don't yet have the established root system of a mature lawn, so maintaining suitable moisture during germination and establishment is important.

Conditions will vary with location, soil type, rainfall and temperature, so follow the directions for your chosen seed and adjust watering to the conditions.

As your lawn establishes, you can gradually move towards the watering routine appropriate for the grass variety and your local conditions.

6. Give new grass a chance to establish



Finally, go easy on freshly seeded areas.

That might mean keeping the kids, pets and backyard cricket pitch elsewhere for a little while. Allow seedlings to establish before subjecting them to regular traffic and follow the product directions around mowing.

A little patience at the beginning can make a big difference to the finished lawn.

Before you sow: a quick spring checklist

- ☐ Clear leaves, dead material and debris
- ☐ Identify bare, thin or high-traffic areas
- ☐ Remove weeds and prepare the soil
- ☐ Consider how much sun and shade the area receives
- ☐ Think about how much traffic your lawn needs to handle
- ☐ For warm-season varieties, wait for consistently warmer conditions and warming soil
- ☐ Choose the right grass seed for the job
- ☐ Follow sowing and watering directions
- ☐ Give new seedlings time to establish

Whether winter has left you with a few bare patches or you're starting an entirely new lawn, spring is a great opportunity to get growing.

Take a look at your conditions, prepare the area properly and choose a grass seed suited to the job.



Because every great lawn starts with the right seed.

Explore the iO Lawn Seed range.

Practical tips for feeding young stock this spring

Spring means new arrivals, and for anyone raising young stock, those first few weeks can be some of the most important.

Whether you're caring for calves, lambs or other young animals, good early nutrition helps support healthy growth and development. But getting young stock off to a strong start isn't only about what you feed. Consistency, preparation, hygiene and close observation all play an important role.

Here are a few practical feeding considerations to keep in mind this spring.

Start with good nutrition

Young animals have significant nutritional demands as they grow and develop. Colostrum and maternal milk are important in the

early stages, but there may be times when supplementary or replacement feeding is required.

Orphaned animals, multiple births, low milk supply or other circumstances can all create a need for additional nutrition. Having an appropriate milk replacer on hand can provide a practical option when natural milk is unavailable or insufficient.

Consistency counts

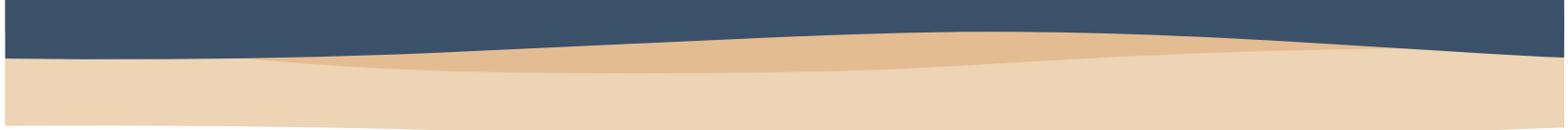
When it comes to feeding young stock, consistency is important.

Keeping feeding times, quantities and preparation methods consistent can help establish a reliable routine. If changes to a feeding program are required, avoid making unnecessary sudden changes and monitor young animals closely as they adjust.

The same goes for milk replacer. Stick to the recommended concentration rather than assuming that adding extra powder will provide extra nutrition.

Mix according to directions

Milk replacers are formulated to be prepared at specific mixing rates, so always follow the directions provided for the individual product.



Measure both powder and water accurately and pay attention to recommended water temperature and feeding volumes. Correct preparation helps ensure young animals receive the nutrition the product has been formulated to provide.

If you're preparing multiple feeds, using the same measuring equipment and process each time can also help maintain consistency.

Keep it clean

Good hygiene is an important part of any young stock feeding program.

Bottles, teats, buckets and mixing equipment should be cleaned thoroughly between feeds. Milk residue can quickly build up in feeding equipment, so establishing a simple cleaning routine can make this easier to manage, particularly when feeding multiple animals.

Fresh, clean water should also be available as young animals develop and begin transitioning towards solid feed.

Keep an eye on your young stock

Feeding guides are useful, but they don't replace regularly checking the animals in front of you.

Keep an eye on appetite, behaviour, body condition and general development. Changes in feeding behaviour or an animal that isn't

progressing as expected can be an early indication that something needs attention.

If you're unsure about the nutritional needs of an individual animal, seek advice from your veterinarian or animal nutrition professional.

Be prepared this spring

Young animals don't always arrive according to plan, so having the right feeding supplies ready can make life a little easier when supplementary feeding is needed.

The iO Milk Replacer range provides practical nutrition options for young stock when replacement or supplementary milk feeding is required.

Speak to your local iO stockist about choosing the right option for your animals and always follow the feeding directions provided on pack.

A little preparation and good feeding practices can go a long way towards giving young stock a strong start.