

4 EASY STEPS TO A LUSH GREEN LAWN YEAR ROUND

I'D GIVEN UP ON HAVING LAWN IN LARGELY SHADY PARTS OF MY GARDEN; WHAT WITH POOR SOIL, LOTS OF TREES AND REGULAR CANINE TRAFFIC. BUT, THAT'S ALL CHANGING - I'VE DISCOVERED A MAGIC FORMULA AND IT'S EASY AS 1,2,3,4

BY HEDI LAMPERT

1. ENRICH YOUR SOIL

Like many other properties in the South Peninsula, mine has sandy soil – water just runs off like droplets of oil. All the moisture is absorbed by an extensive layer of kaolin, which is essentially porcelain clay lying a short distance below the surface. I'm now using Khoisan Trading Gardener's Gold Dust

to assist in moisture retention.

Application is simple, just loosen the soil with a spade and then sprinkle on the gold dust – a handful per m², then water it in

PRO SOIL TIP:

+ Apply gold dust three to four times a year.

2. SOW THE SEEDS

Sprinkle grass seeds as per prescribed sowing coverage on the prepared soil. A blend of grass seed varieties ensures year-round coverage in all areas of your garden. Starke Ayres Four Seasons Lawn Seed is highly effective – sow in autumn and your lawn will grow seamlessly from winter into spring and summer. In particularly shady areas, especially under trees, where soil is drained of nutrients, try Starke Ayres Shady Mix Lawn Seed.

PRO SOWING TIP:

+ Mix grass seed with river sand then sow – the sand makes it easier to sow thinly and see coverage.

3. TOP DRESS AND FERTILISE

Dust the lawn with a quality topsoil/dressing, followed by a sprinkle of fertiliser.

FERTILISER TIP:

+ If your dogs always eat your organic fertiliser, shift to a chemical 3.1.5, which is not as tempting for them. Apply every four to six weeks using 100g to 150g per m².

+ If you do not have dogs, use Talborne Organics Vita Green 5.1.5, as it's a slow-release organic fertiliser, which maintains a nutrient-rich residue in the soil for four months.

4. WATER YOUR GRASS OR PLAN TO SOW JUST BEFORE IT RAINS

PRO MOWING TIPS:

+ DON'T mow newly-seeded grass until it's taken firm root. When mowing, do not crop too low – rather leave the grass tufts a little fluffy, so that more of the blade/leaf is exposed to sunlight to allow for food production/photosynthesis and better established roots.

+ DON'T rake over newly-planted grass since fragile tufts trying to establish themselves are likely to be uprooted.

LAWN MAINTENANCE TIP:

+ Sprinkle a little extra grass seed after mowing, followed by a thin film of weed-free lawn dressing. Use Kelpak as a monthly foliar spray to supplement your fertiliser programme, particularly if your soil is sandy and depleted of nutrients, as it helps to maximise nutrient uptake by plants – it's also odourless. ■



STARKE AYRES FOUR SEASONS LAWN SEED

Four Seasons is a specific blend comprising Bermuda, Perennial Rye, Kentucky Blue Grass and Tall

Fescue. It's ideal for coastal or warm inland areas. Tall Fescues and cold-tolerant Bermuda grasses ensure good winter activity. This lawn blend is excellent in sunny areas, partial shade, heat, drought and salinity conditions. It also fares well with high traffic areas and needs 50 percent less irrigation than traditional cool-season grasses.



STARKE AYRES SHADY MIX LAWN SEED

This popular blend of Tall Fescue and Kentucky Blue Grass has a high shade tolerance and won't go dormant

in winter. It yields dark-green grass in both sun and shaded areas, has low water requirements and tolerates high traffic.


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