



Landscape Services

Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 6/2023)

Formal Garden

Installation of Rye Grain

This SSOP provides guidance on the safe installation of rye grain. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

Safety

PPE Required for Ornamental Grass Cutbacks: Gloves, sturdy footwear, eye protection, hearing protection (if not battery-operated equipment being used)

Scheduled: Late October or early November

Tools Needed: String line, garden bed tiller, metal leaf rake, grade rake, shovel, broadcast spreader and stakes

Safety Hazards: Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, lifting, bending, noise, equipment malfunction, hot or cold temperatures, sharp objects and inclement weather.

Installation of Rye Grain Installation

1. Remove the seasonal color.
2. Dispose of plant material in a bucket or tarp to be hauled off to compost.
3. Once all plant material has been removed from the planting beds, remove all drip from the bed and disconnect at the header POC (point of connection).
4. Lay the drip in the turf near the bed.
5. Till the entire bed to a depth of six inches.
6. Repeat steps 1 – 5 until all beds have been completed
We will return after a 24-hour period to allow bed materials to settle.
7. Return to the space to till the beds one last time to a depth of six inches.
8. Once a bed has been completed with the second tilling, begin to grade out the bed.
 - a. It is important to mound the soil gradually from the middle to three inches from the edge of the bed.
 - b. The space three inches to the bed edge should be relatively flat.
9. Install the drip back into the bed.
 - a. Ensure that you are securing the drip with drip staples to help hold the irrigation down.
 - b. Bury in the drip into the bed that has been raked and mounded

10. Rake out the bed once the drip has been installed to give the bed a finished look with no footprints or recesses in the bed.
 - a. It is important that the beds are raked out to be smooth as the rye grain will mimic any imperfections left behind.
11. Broadcast the rye grain seed in the bed with a handheld spreader applying the seed evenly.
 - a. Avoid getting seed in any nearby beds that are not intended to get seed.
12. Repeat steps 7 – 11 until all beds have been completed

Installation of Bed Edge in Rye Grain Beds

1. Setup a stringline to create a straight-line bed edge six inches away from the edge of the bed.
2. Utilizing a long and tall (roughly 36"x18") piece of cardboard, place it vertical along the string line and spread a pre-emerge (Freehand) in the six-inch space to help prevent weeds and rye grain from growing in the border of the rye grain.
3. Repeat the process of applying pre-emerge to the bed edges until all edges have been addressed.
4. Once all edges have been treated, we must top dress with a bedding cover to define the edge.
 - a. This will be at the discretion of the supervisor to make the determination as to what material we are utilizing to create the bed edge. Materials may consist of compost, mulch, cotton seed or other types of mulch.
5. Repeat steps 1 – 4 until all beds have been edged and edges pre-emerged.
6. Clean off all stone walls ensuring there is no debris in the cracks of the stone or on top of.
7. Blow off all hardscapes
8. Water in the rye grain seed to begin the process of germinating the seed.