

# Sports Turf Topic: Seeding/Overseeding

North, South, East or West, you will probably be doing some type of seeding this fall. You may call it seeding or you may call it overseeding, but the goal is still to get the seed to germinate and then have the young seedling establish and grow. In many situations, this can be a challenge even to the turf professional.

A seed must go through several basic stages to germinate and establish. First, it must absorb moisture from the soil. Moisture to seeds is like a key in a car, it won't start without it. Once moisture enters the seed, it activates several enzymatic reactions which initiates both the development of the young primary root and the seedling. When the young root penetrates the seed coat, it must be kept moist; if this root dies, the seedling can not develop. The seed only develops one primary root.

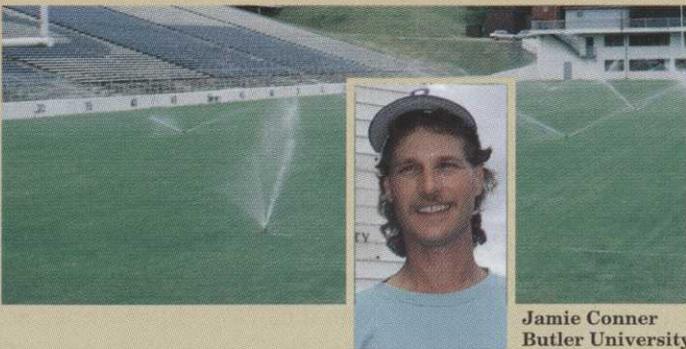
It is critical to apply a seeding fertilizer high in phosphorus to assist establishment. This is due to the inefficiency of the young root to absorb existing phosphorus from the soil. Anything that the turfgrass

manager can do to enhance the development of the root and seedling increases the chance that you will get the plant to establish.

Biostimulants such as Launch® and Focus® have been shown to assist turf establishment in several ways. First, they can reduce the time needed for the germination process. This reduces the chance that the seed will be allowed to dry out and not germinate. Applying biostimulants when seeding increases the vigor of the primary and the secondary or adventitious roots. By enhancing the root system, you enable quicker establishment.

Cytokinins are plant hormones which are extracted from sea kelp and are an important component of biostimulants used for enhancement of germination. Cytokinins control when the seedling will begin tillering which effects density. Biostimulants containing cytokinins therefore enhance the density of seedling turfgrass. Quicker germination combined with faster establishment and density increases the potential of success during the seeding process.

**Condition your turf with Launch® and Focus® Turf Biostimulants.  
For tough turf that won't buckle under. Even after the game.**



**Jamie Conner**  
Butler University

Butler University, Indianapolis, IN uses its football stadium for lacrosse as well as football, making the playing field turf maintenance a challenge. Groundskeeper Jamie Conner core aerates and overseeds the field with pure Kentucky bluegrass to get it ready for the fall football season. "Of course, straight bluegrass is slow starting," says Conner, "but we've had good results pushing it with Launch biostimulant." Conner likes to pre-germinate his seed and adds Launch to the seed primer soak-water, as well as spraying Launch on the soil as seed or sod go down. "Launch has made a noticeable improvement in germination and establishment rates," he reports. "A couple of Launch apps during the football season also seems to perk up the recovery of the grass and help it withstand punishment."

Always read and follow label directions.



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