

Why Did My Grass Not Grow?

A common question we get in our office is Why did the seed I bought not come up?

Though it is easy to automatically assume that the seed must be bad or poor quality, the reality is that so many factors play into the successful germination and survival of grass and wildflower seeds.

Proper watering; sunlight; soil type, preparation, and compaction; planting depth; herbicide use; seed type and quality; and timing of planting can all play into successful seeding.

There are 4 main requirements for seeds to germinate. If any one of them is missing or compromised, germination may fail.

- 1) Seed-to-soil contact
- 2) The right amount of moisture
- 3) The right temperature
- 4) Sunlight

Additionally, if the seedbed is the not prepared correctly, is too compact, too soft, or has an unfavorable pH or mineral content, it could also impact your seeding success.

Seeds that are not adapted to your environment (the proper elevation, moisture and exposure conditions); are planted too deep or too shallow; are subject to too much grazing pressure, foot traffic, erosion, or herbicide use; or are not planted at the proper seeding rate or time of year may also fall flat.

While seed quality and age can impact the success of a seeding, all seed purchased by MPCD is tested by the supplier prior to shipping to determine its germination rate. The mix's germination rate and packaging date are printed on the seed label. MPCD seeks seed suppliers that package good quality seed with large percentages of pure live seed.

Successful grass seeding is more an art than a chance encounter. While you may have success just tossing some seed on the ground, the likelihood of success is much improved with proper seedbed preparation, proper timing, and proper care. As such, read 9 Keys to Successful Seeding on the previous page.

Final Thought on Seeding

Seeding success often requires a healthy dose of persistence, patience, and perseverance. Some species have seeds that can remain dormant, yet perfectly viable, for years. Others have a naturally low germination rate. Give your seeds time after planting to see if they come up. If they don't sprout within a few months, try again during the next proper seeding window. Maybe the conditions weren't right on the first go but will be right on the second try.

PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE, AND PERSEVERANCE MAKE AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION!