Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

Growing Grass in Shaded Areas

There are many challenges to consider when growing grass in shaded areas. It is important to know that it is difficult to grow grass under shaded areas and sometimes even impossible. Although the correct selection of seed is important, there are areas that you will not be able to have grass unless you are willing to find a way to get more light in. Why do you never see grasses growing naturally in wooded areas, but always see grassy areas in open fields? The grass cannot compete with the trees for light and moisture.



If you are still determined to grow grass in the shade, there are a few things that must be considered.

Why Shade Makes Grass Growth Difficult

Areas shaded by trees are especially difficult to grow grass in because the trees absorb certain parts of the sunlight that the grass needs. The tree also acts as an umbrella during light rains, and prevents rain from passing through the trees and making it to the grass. Much of the rain stays on the leaves of the tree and evaporates.



Tree Pruning Is Important

With that being said, proper pruning of trees needs to be considered and done regularly to allow the grass enough light. Also consider thinning the trees by removing any undesirable trees. You will need to prune enough to allow natural light to reach the ground. Consider hiring a professional company to prune your trees. Be sure to let them know what your goals are for growing grass.



The Best Grass Choices for Shade

Kentucky bluegrass and perennial rye will do well in full sun but are not the best selection of seed under the dense canopy of a tree. Many varieties of fine fescues, such as chewing fescue and creeping red fescue, are the most shade tolerant of any turf grass. A good selection of shade seed will contain several cultivars of fine fescues.





Get It Right Before You Start

Before you embark on your project, request Meehan's Lawn Service "Seeding Instructions" Info sheet to be sure you are doing everything to get the results you are looking for. Meehan's also can provide you with the proper selection of shade and sun seed mixes. Call our office for further help!



Other Options to Consider

You may have to accept defeat and consider something different for that area. Consider shade tolerant ground covers, add or extend mulch beds to the area, or even a gravel path.



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