

Instructions For Pin-Spike Greens Seeding

1. Mow greens and collars to remove excess leaf blade and to help **remove the dew**. The greens **MUST be dry, or close to it!**
2. **After greens have been seeded**, a light watering should be done to help wash any extra seed into the holes.
3. A light top-dressing may then be applied. (optional) Prefer a spinner type of top dresser that can just apply a “dusting” that will require no dragging.
4. Perform light frequent watering. Deep watering isn’t important for good germination. Just keep the seed wet. (3-5 times per day, depending on the climate)
5. Mow the next couple of days without the buckets, just as a precaution to make sure you don’t pick up any seed that may not be in the holes. Also, the clippings (in a very small way) help to cover the seed for better moisture retention.
6. When the seed starts to germinate, you will detect little root “hairs” starting to sprout. At this point, raise your cutting height to approximately .180-.190 and make sure that the bedknives are lapped in very well. This will insure that the mower isn’t pulling the plants out of the ground. This WILL happen if the mowers are not sharp.
7. Apply a good “greens grade” starter fertilizer after the greens seeding. Use a 18-24-6 or something similar with a chelated phosphorous for quick pickup. This will promote a healthy root system, and this source of phosphorous will not stay in the soil and promote seed heads. It’s okay to go to a liquid “spoon feeding” program if you desire, but as a personal preference, I prefer feeding the soil with a granular fertilizer also.

If you are seeding in conjunction with a spring/fall aerifying, it would be best to seed first, while the green is the least disturbed. The seeders will work better. Then try to aerify within 1-3 days after the seeding, because if you wait much longer, the seed may already be starting to germinate. If you are pulling cores, the small amount of seed that will actually be pulled out with the plug that is being removed is negligible. If you are doing solid tine aerification, then no seed is being removed. By seeding before aerifying, the green will be in the best (smoothest) condition for the seeder to run in. These are very precise machines, and it is best to have as smooth and clean of surface as possible to operate in. That is why topdressing afterwards, as opposed to before is preferred. Again, topdressing is not needed.

Once the seed starts to germinate, do as little to it as possible (except to water). These little pin-spike holes are excellent growing pots. Germination is exceptional. If you have a greens roller, that would be good to substitute for a mowing about every other day, since that would have no chance of pulling out the new seedlings. Again, make sure that your reels and bedknives are sharp. As the seedlings start to mature, taper off the light frequent watering and transition back to your deeper watering practices.

By applying these basic techniques, and some common sense, your greens seeding process should have success!