

# Starting a New Lawn - Seed, Plugs or Turf?

by Greengrass



**Seed** is most peoples' choice for a new lawn. It is the cheapest and easiest of the three options, but for most people, with an abysmally low success rate. However there are a few things to bare in mind when choosing seed. Look on the packet and invariably the packet will contain three or four types of grass. Invariably the seed mixes here in Spain are at best a compromise and most don't contain any warm season grasses at all. The advantage of a box

of seed mix is that you will see a result for your investment in under one week. But after the seed has germinated, forget to water for a day or two and the fastest seed to germinate will be the first to wither and die.

I don't advise buying mixes of seed, if seed is required then choose a single type of grass seed that suits your requirement for your lawn.

**Turf** is not readily available in Spain. It's on long delivery and is generally shipped in from other areas like France or Northern Spain, neither places having a Mediterranean Climate. It's expensive (around 10 euros/M<sup>2</sup>), difficult to lay, needs a fair amount of ground levelling, may contain a high proportion of weeds and once laid needs copious amounts of water during the first few weeks otherwise it goes yellow and dies. But it is an instant solution and once laid it gives you an immediate lawn.

**Plugs** are a really great solution. They are not a practical solution for English type grasses, because the grass type is "bunch" (i.e. does not spread). However most types of Mediterranean Warm Season grass do spread, so within a season for a very modest layout (around 5 euros/M<sup>2</sup>) you will have a lawn.

Naturally plugs involve a little more work than seed, but less preparation than turf. And plugs are a great solution for filling in those bare patches. (bare patches are not what a bear uses to help give up smoking!)

That's it for now, but remember if you have toothache, go see a tooth specialist - see a dentist. If you have a problem with your lawn talk to a lawn specialist. You can see a selection of different grass types on our stand at the Mamut, Jalon every Saturday (11.00 - 3.00).

Next Article is "Repairing a Patchy Lawn."

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