

DICHONDRA

See your local seed distributor for more information regarding dichondra seed for your growing area.



**CAL/WEST
Seeds**

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Value Through Innovation

California Grown

No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned. Always follow package instructions when using lawn chemicals. In the case of herbicides and any other pesticides (insecticides and fungicides), always carefully follow the directions listed on the container and consult with your lawn products dealer or governmental agricultural office for further usage information and recommendations.



**DICHONDRA LAWNS FOR
YOUR HOME OR GARDEN**

**WORLD CLASS CHARACTER
HOME TOWN CHARM**



A Dichondra lawn is something special. It is a unique ground cover that can turn your yard into a showplace. Dichondra's rich, lush green color and velvety texture provide a year-round complement to any home or garden.

Dichondra works well in small spot applications also as a replacement for grass in areas that are difficult to mow – such as between stepping stones, around trees, next to walls and foundations.

Dichondra can be grown in full sun or partial shade and on soils that are sandy or heavy, as long as the soil has good drainage. It is best adapted to warm climates and will retain its striking green color during winter temperatures as low as 20° to 25°F with only slight leaf browning.

Dichondra requires a fair amount of care, but with a wide variety of products to help fight insects and weeds, care of dichondra has never been easier to maintain. It is a lawn that responds beautifully to the care it inspires in homeowners.

Dichondra can be seeded into an existing grass lawn without digging it up. Spray the old lawn with several glyphosphate treatments to kill the grass. The dead grass should then be mowed as closely as possible and the soil loosened with a rake to create a dichondra seedbed. The seeding should follow the same procedure and care as a new lawn seeding.

STARTING THE DICHONDRA LAWN

Starting a new dichondra lawn requires no more effort that needed to seed a grass lawn.

Preparing the Soil

Dichondra grows best on a deep, loose, well-drained soil, so the seedbed should be spaded or rototilled at least 6 inches deep. If you plan to install a sprinkler system, this is the best time to do so.

Work in a general purpose lawn food at the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For example, if your fertilizer contains 20% nitrogen, apply 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. If your soil is unusually heavy or compacted, mix in a weed-free organic material to help loosen the soil.

Break up any clods and rake the surface until it is smooth and free of low spots where water could stand and puddle. Rake off rocks, sticks and other debris. The ground should be prepared so that it gently slopes away from the house or patio.

Controlling Weeds


If weeds are controlled prior to establishment, a great deal of work is saved controlling weeds later. Weed control can be accomplished mechanically or through the use of herbicides. Plant high-quality weed-free seed for best results.

Mechanical control involves sprinkling the prepared seedbed 2 to 3 times every 10-14 days and then lightly cultivating between waterings to eliminate most of the annual weeds that sprout from the top inch or two of the soil surface.

Herbicide control can be accomplished in different ways and with various materials.

Pre-planting control – Fumigants are available which kill both weed seeds and underground plant parts. These are very effective, but risky since trees and shrubs can be killed if fumigants are applied too close or over their root systems.

A safe method of controlling weeds before seeding is to allow weeds to sprout, following the procedure for mechanical control, but instead of destroying the sprouted weeds by cultivation, non-selective herbicides can be used.



Pre-emergence control – A number of weed killers classified as pre-emergence herbicides can be applied just before seeding, at seeding, or immediately following dichondra seeding. They will prevent many weeds common to dichondra lawns from sprouting and becoming established. Please see your lawn products dealer for usage information and recommendations.

These pre-emergent herbicides are selective, meaning they will kill annual weeds without hurting the seeded dichondra when used according to directions.

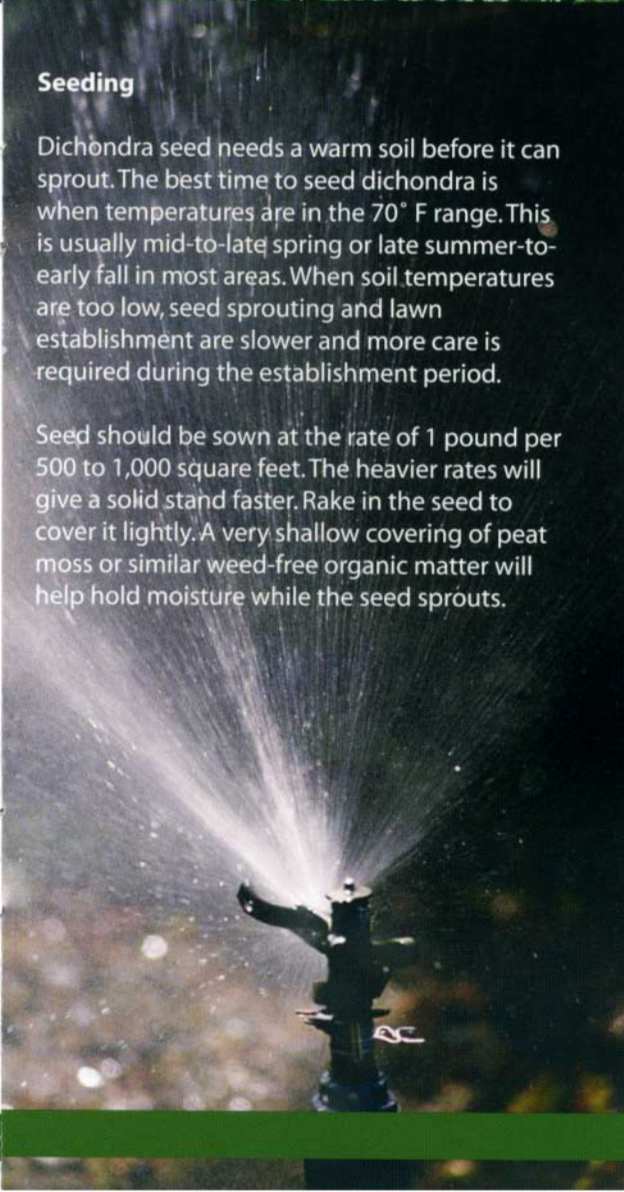
Be patient – dichondra is slow to germinate and emerge.

**Plant High Quality Seeds -
Weed Free Seeds For Best Results**

Seeding

Dichondra seed needs a warm soil before it can sprout. The best time to seed dichondra is when temperatures are in the 70° F range. This is usually mid-to-late spring or late summer-to-early fall in most areas. When soil temperatures are too low, seed sprouting and lawn establishment are slower and more care is required during the establishment period.

Seed should be sown at the rate of 1 pound per 500 to 1,000 square feet. The heavier rates will give a solid stand faster. Rake in the seed to cover it lightly. A very shallow covering of peat moss or similar weed-free organic matter will help hold moisture while the seed sprouts.



Watering

Watering is one of the most challenging steps in starting any kind of lawn. The dichondra seedbed must be kept moist, but not soggy. A seed sprout will die once it dries out. It may be necessary to sprinkle the seedbed as often as 3-4 times daily to keep it moist. Use a fine mist to avoid washing away soil and seed.

Dichondra seed will sprout in 1 to 2 weeks during warm weather; the first leaves that appear will be long and narrow and will not look like true dichondra leaves. In 7 to 10 days - after most of the seeding is up - let the soil surface partly dry out between sprinklings. Gradually increase the amount of water applied with each subsequent irrigation.

A beautiful dichondra lawn needs care; the attention it receives will be well worth the rewards it has to offer.

Fertilizing

Feed your established dichondra lawn monthly with 1/2 to 1 pound of actual nitrogen. Do not apply fertilizers when the dichondra leaves are wet and hose off the leaves as soon as possible after fertilizing. A thorough watering after fertilizing will carry the plant food into the root zone. Strengthen your dichondra to compete with weeds and diseases by continuing to fertilize during the fall and winter months.



Watering

It is a common mistake to water dichondra too often and too lightly. This causes shallow rooting, which weakens dichondra and makes it more susceptible to weeds and diseases. Each irrigation should add at least one inch of water. How long is the right time to water? Place empty straight-sided cans among your sprinklers and time the intervals it takes to fill the can receiving the least amount of water to a depth of 1". If the soil cannot take an inch or more of water at one setting without runoff, turn the sprinklers on and off several times during irrigation to let the water soak in. Another alternative is to switch to slow-delivery sprinkler heads or use soaker hoses.

Mowing

One of dichondra's many attractions is that it requires less frequent mowing than grass lawns. It will look neater, however, if mowed at least every two weeks. This will also help control weeds. Set your mower to a height of 1-1/2" to 2" during the summer months and to 3/4" during cooler temperatures to encourage a dense, small-leaved turf.

Don't remove too much growth at one time by cutting too close or waiting too long between mowings. This will cause your dichondra lawn to look "scalped" and can cause damage to the lawn. Catch the clippings so they do not build up and become a breeding ground for diseases.

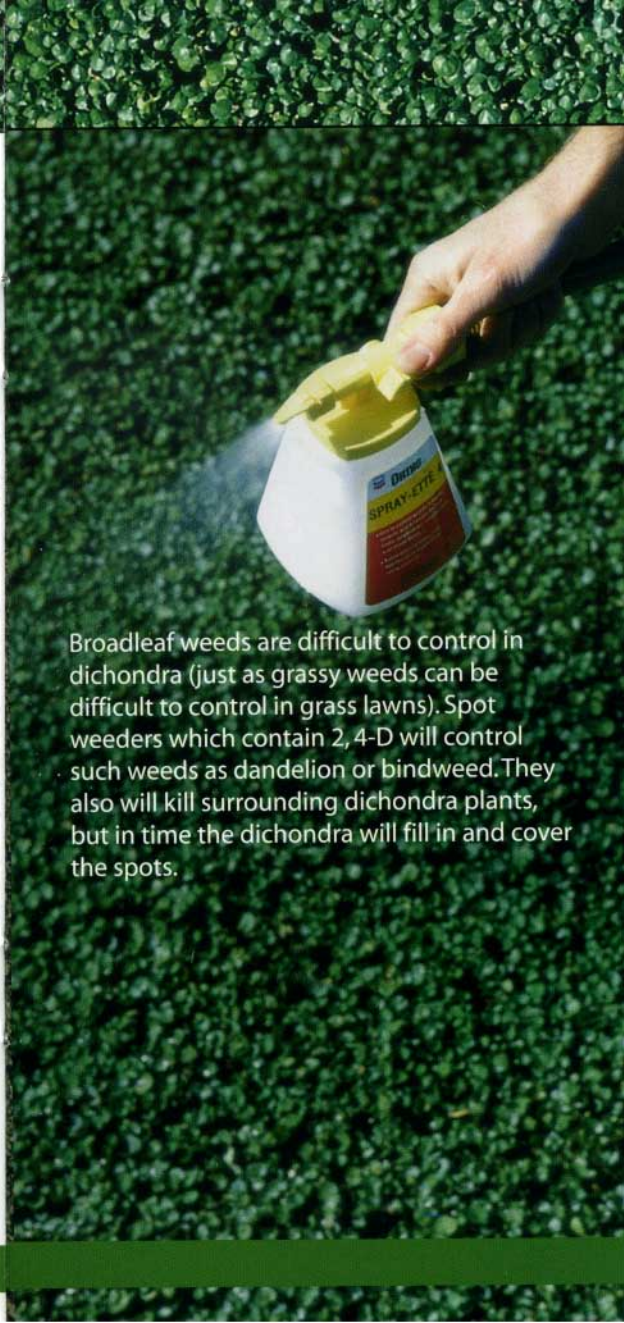


Weed Control

The first line of defense against invading weeds is a dense, healthy dichondra turf – developed through consistent care in fertilizing, watering and mowing. There are a number of effective herbicides that can be used to combat weeds in an established dichondra lawn. Most are easy to use and many are included in products that contain fertilizer and insecticides for a packaged program of dichondra care.

Pre-emergence herbicides are available that can be used on established dichondra lawns to control most annual weeds and some perennial grassy and broadleaf weeds before they sprout. They normally are applied in late summer or early fall for control of winter-germinating weeds or in early spring for summer weeds.

Post-emergence herbicides are also available which can be used to control grassy weeds, including crabgrass, which can actively grow in established dichondra lawns.



Broadleaf weeds are difficult to control in dichondra (just as grassy weeds can be difficult to control in grass lawns). Spot weeders which contain 2, 4-D will control such weeds as dandelion or bindweed. They also will kill surrounding dichondra plants, but in time the dichondra will fill in and cover the spots.

Insects

The most damaging insects to dichondra are flea beetles, cutworms and the vegetable weevil. All three are fairly easy to kill with insecticides. Early detection is a key to insect control. Flea beetles are black and very small and cause damage by skeletonizing leaves. They can be found by spreading a white handkerchief on the ground. They will hop onto the fabric and be easily seen. Cutworms and vegetable weevils can be found in the soil by the pyrethrum test which brings the larvae to the soil surface very quickly. (See label instructions for details.) Vegetable weevil damage most often occurs during the winter and early spring, while cutworms and flea beetles are most active during the warm months of the growing season.

Diseases

Prevention is the best approach to combating dichondra diseases. Dichondra clippings should not be allowed to collect and a schedule of less frequent, deep watering should be followed. Frequent light sprinklings keep dichondra damp and are ideal for the growth of various fungi.

Diseases cause leaf spotting, yellowing or thin stands. Your garden supply dealer carries a number of lawn fungicides for control.

**Consult your lawn care professional
for pesticide recommendations.**

A Commitment to Value Through Innovation

Cal/West operates United States research facilities in California, Wisconsin and at test locations throughout the world in order to breed the most desirable characteristics into every seed product. Cal/West Seeds pays great attention to seed quality; no seed leaves the Cal/West Sacramento facility until a Registered Seed Technologist has approved each individual lot. Extraordinary care is taken throughout the production and the conditioning process in order to assure the highest amount of germinating seed with the least amount of weed seed possible.

As the new generation of dichondra develops, lawn owners can be assured that Cal/West will be on the forefront of technology and customer satisfaction.

