

Overseed - The Good and The Bad

My Front yard: October 26th 2019



My Front Yard: February 20th 2020



Overseed Pros

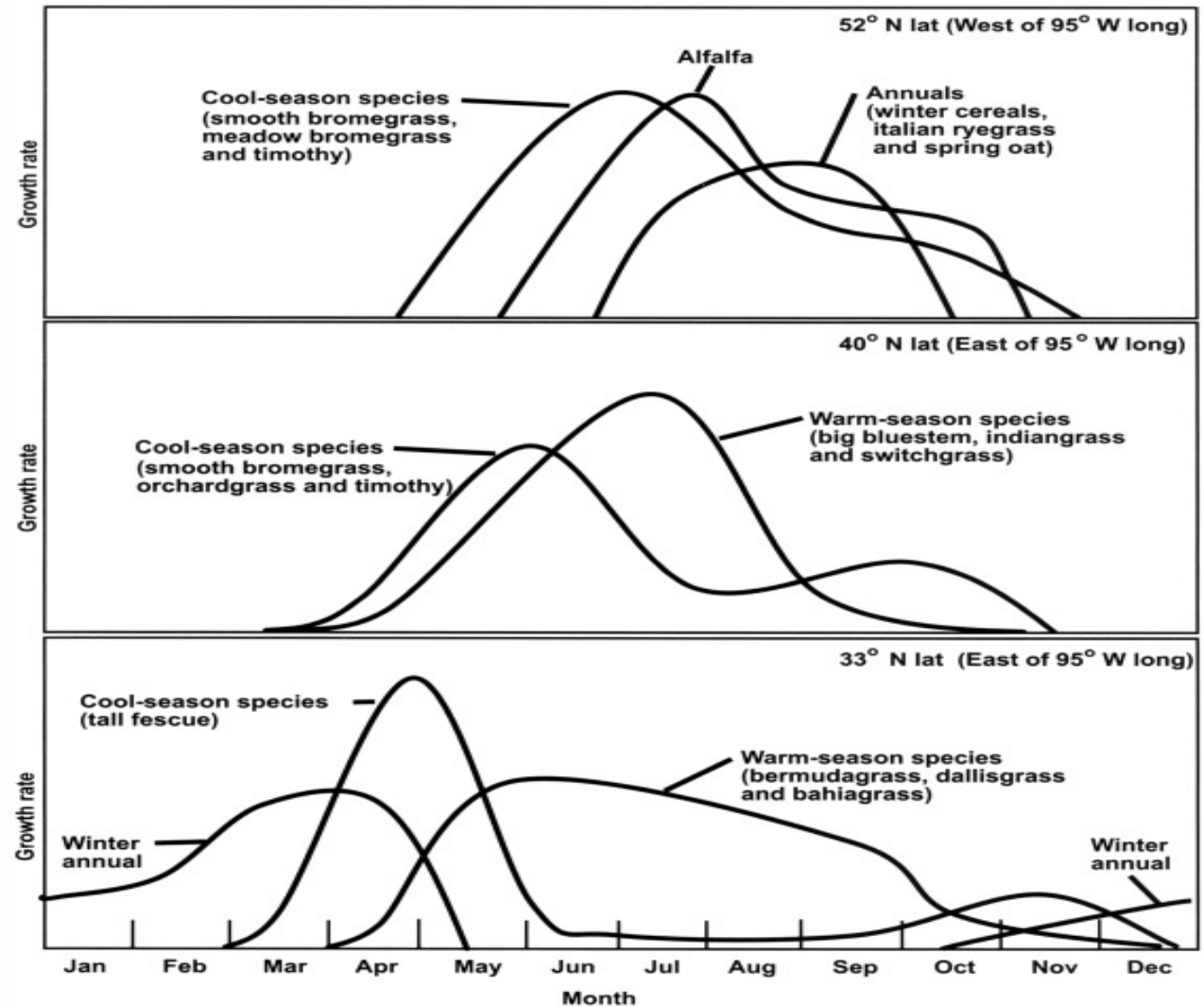
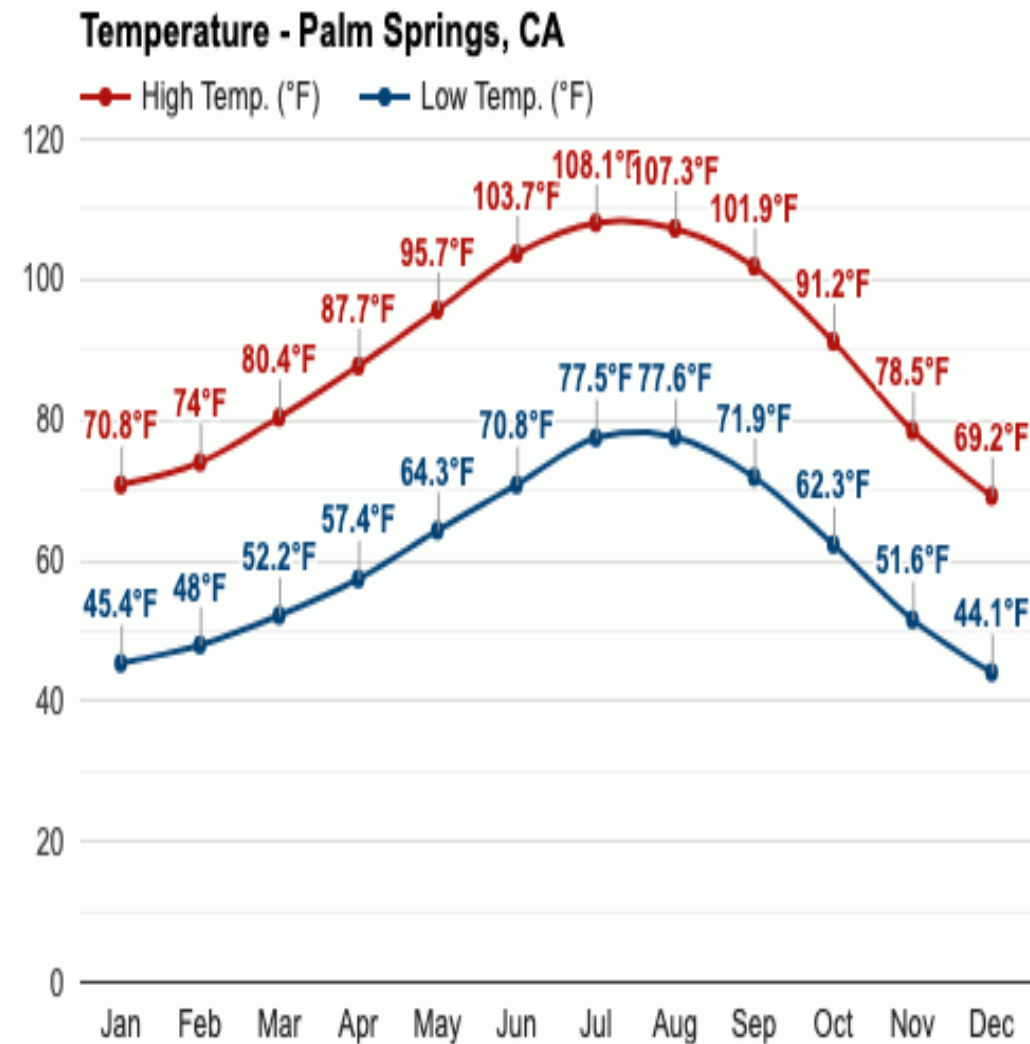
1. The Rye Grass is Aesthetically more pleasing than the dormant brown Bermuda grass
2. Ryegrass seed is cheap
3. Ryegrass grows quickly



Overseed Cons

1. The actual process of overseed can become expensive
2. The amount of water need to bring up the seed can be considered wasteful
3. The Ryegrass growing over dormant Bermuda will damage and kill it.
4. Some of the fertilizer amounts used on ryegrass can also damage the Bermuda
5. Inconsistent color, due to transition
6. Using higher amount of water year round
7. Ryegrass is only needed for 2.5 months
8. Greater chance for weed infestation

Ideal temperature range for the grasses:
Rye Grass: 60-75 air temperature
Bermuda Grass 90-100 air temperature



Tips to Save water if you are going to Overseed

1. Perform a quick audit of your irrigation before beginning the overseed process, fix anything that is broken
2. Pick the optimal time to overseed your lawn
3. Do not dry your lawn out for weeks before overseed prep
4. Do not scalp your lawn all the way down to dirt it isn't necessary
5. Once seed is down water in short 4 to 5 min blasts every 1 to 2 hours through out the day, the surface should be damp to touch but not saturated
6. Do not water seed through out the night last start time should be around 7 to 8pm depending on your frequency
7. Once seed is germinated begin to scale back the frequency that you are watering during the day
8. Once seed is established usually after 4 to 5 mowing's adjust irrigation again and begin to only water at night.
9. After 30 to 40 days you should be able to water every other night or so each yard and irrigation is a little different so may have to do a couple schedule adjustments.



Ideas if you are thinking about not overseeding

1. Continue to water and fertilize your Bermuda Grass as you have been until the first frost.
2. After first frost continue to water, but very limited 1 time per week for 10 to 15 minutes is all that will be needed
3. If you still want to have a green lawn through the fall/winter another option looking into is turf dyes or paints.
4. Look into replacing your current Bermuda with newer varieties that withstand the cold temperatures even longer.
5. Last option is you could remove turf from your home altogether and use a variation of perennial plants.

