



Slice seeders work well in certain applications to over-seed existing lawns; however we do not suggest using them in applications where the turf grass has become very sparse or for establishing completely new lawns. The blades on the slice seeders are spaced approximately 2" apart and as a result, the grass does not come in as full as other mechanical preparation methods. A good application for the slice seeder would be over-seeding an established lawn as part of a routine lawn maintenance system. The application is very quick and easy, and the results will be satisfactory to keep your lawn looking great year after year.

If your lawn is very thin or distressed from drought, thatch build up, poor soil conditions and compaction, or if you have lost 40% or more of the turf grass, you may want to consider one of the following options for overseeding such as a power rake, power aerator or both!

Compare the blade spacing of a slice seeder to that of a power rake or de-thatcher, as they are sometimes called, which are generally spaced just 1/2" apart with the added benefits of removing the thatch barrier. More blades per inch and less thatch means more seed soil contact which improves seed germination and creates a fuller lawn.

Another alternative would be seeding with the use of a power aerator. Grass seed planted with the use of a power aerator germinates deep in the ground and tends to have a hearty root system. In addition, the long term benefits of aeration to loosen soil compaction and deliver nutrients to the grass roots are numerous.



**Slicer Blades**



**De Thatcher Blades**

### Equipment Options

Most power slices can be found in an 18" or 22" wide cut with front or rear mounted seed troughs. A series of vertical slicing blades spaced 2" apart cut the soil approximately 1/8" deep. A power slice will differ from a true slit seeder as the seed on a power slice will simply drop on the top of the soil and be blended in. True slit seeders will usually have a guide forcing seed behind the blades and into the groove or slit.

### Preparation

Mow the existing grass to 1". The short mowing helps the blades easily reach the top of the soil and prevents seed from lodging in the tall grass and never reaching the ground. Set the blade

depth to penetrate 1/8" into the soil. Attempting more depth may scalp the lawn and damage existing turf.

If more de-thatching or soil exposure is desired, as is the case for overseeding, we suggest making multiple passes to avoid existing turf damage, instead of trying to cut deeper into the soil. Grass seed will germinate when buried as little as two times the seeds thickness, by making multiple passes and improving the seed soil contact will get you a fuller stand of grass.

## Fertilizer

We always recommend using a starter fertilizer after seeding. Some of our clients will blend the fertilizer with the grass seed and apply it through the power slice, but it is not necessary and is probably easier to apply with a broadcast spreader after slicing.