



What to do now that you have had your sod installed

In order for the newly sodded lawn to be successful, it is very important to properly water it for the first few weeks.

The most important thing to do is to keep the sodded area very wet during the daytime. **The sod should be almost sopping wet for the first week.** Sod has very little root structure until it puts down roots and grows into the base soil. Until this happens, it will be very easy for the sod to dry out and die. Areas in the shade will retain moisture much better than sunny areas. Our experience has taught us that sunny areas will need much more watering than shady areas in hot weather. If you notice browning or drying around the edges of the sod pieces, they need more water.

It is very important that the watering takes place during the day and NOT at night or late evening. Cool night air allows excess water to stay on the lawn causing fatal blights to form. If the new sod seems to be dying or showing any problems, please call us as soon as possible so that a treatment can be immediately applied to save the area.

After a week or so, continue to water the new sod daily, only now give it one long deep watering each day. This will cause the water to soak down into the soil further and encourage deeper root growth. Do not fertilize the lawn for at least the first month after installation. We fertilize the area lightly upon the initial seeding. After the first month, it is very important that the lawn be fertilized routinely to ensure that it grows strong. We recommend hiring a turf care company to do fertilization and weed control. Do not cut the new sod until it is all at least 4 inches tall or is lying over. Preferably, it is better to wait as long as possible before you cut the first time. It is also better not to water just before mowing to prevent the mower wheels from pushing into the wet topsoil. The first cut should be done at the highest setting on your walk-behind push mower and with SHARP blades to prevent pulling and tearing of the grass. Also, be sure to remove the clippings the first time you cut your new lawn.

If your sod is planted in the fall, it is very important to keep falling leaves off of your newly seeded areas and new sod. The leaves can very quickly choke out and smother the new grass. If you need to rake the leaves off, please take care and be gentle as possible.

What to expect of your new lawn

It can take up to one year or more for a new lawn to fully establish itself and to reach full maturity. You can expect that some areas may dry out and die into bare spots up to the size of a softball. These will fill in over time as the grass grows and spreads. Some weeds are also normal. These should be left alone the first month or two before you start up a weed control program. A proper watering, weed control, and fertilization program is necessary to achieve optimal success of a newly seeded area

Remember, it takes more than just proper installation to get a nice lawn. It is very important that you continue to maintain your new sod properly in order to get the high quality turf that you want.