

Early and Long Term Sod Care Instructions

Proper care, particularly in the first several weeks will ensure successful establishment of the seeds. Please follow the watering and care instructions below for best results.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- You may walk on the lawn to move sprinklers but please try to keep foot traffic to an absolute minimum during the initial growth period.
- If the edges between the sod pull apart or are separating, you are not applying enough water. The sod is shrinking and pulling apart.
- Make sure to water along pavement surfaces when the temperatures are warmer, as the seed will literally bake next to the hot surface early during the establishment phase.

Phase 1 Maintenance Practices 0 to 10 days

The sod should be SOAKED with water as soon as it is laid. Water each zone or section as soon as possible. You can check by stepping on it. If your foot makes a deep impression, it has enough water. The soil on the back of the sod should range from damp to wet. If the soil is firm, lift a corner of the sod to visually inspect. If not damp you should continue to water.

Day 2 -10: 1" of water should be applied in each newly sodded area. **Use a rain gauge, tin can or similar container to measure irrigation by placing it in the path of the sprinkler.** Cooler weather, rainy conditions and shady areas may require less water. Watering a second time each day is recommended if the temperatures are over 70° degrees and sunny. It is important to get the water through the sod and into the soil below the sod. You can check this by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn. ****Do not fertilize or mow the lawn yet.****

Phase 2 Maintenance Practices 10 to 28 days

Apply 1" of water (each area) every other day. ***Please note:** Cooler weather, rainy conditions and shady areas may need require less water. You can check to be sure you are watering enough by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn. The sod should be difficult to pull up – DO NOT force it up. The root system is establishing and should not be pulled from the soil. If the lawn is not rooting you are not watering enough.

Before watering the lawn, cut the grass as needed. Do not remove more than a third of the grass plant at one time while cutting. Example: if the grass is 5" tall do not mow below 3.5". If the lawn is too wet to cut, do not water for another day and cut the next day. ****Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn yet.****

Phase 3 Maintenance Practices 5 weeks and beyond

You may begin to cut the lawn as needed. The lawn should be fairly well rooted and can take normal wear. Water the lawn approximately twice a week, making sure to apply 1" of water each week.

You may apply a balanced turf fertilizer 6 weeks after installation. **** DO NOT apply herbicides until at least 10 weeks from the lawn installation.**** Avoid applying herbicides when it is hot and dry. Wait for cooler weather.



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	WATER	MOWING	SUPPLEMENTAL FERTILIZER	OTHER APPLICATION	OTHER CULTURAL PRACTICE
Prohibit traffic on the lawn until a solid foundation of grass has developed (approx. 3 weeks) after which do not play or use heavily until after six weeks of growth or three lawn mowings.					
0-10 Days	1" per day*	No	No	No	No
10-21 Days	1" every other day*	First Cut After 12-14 days	No	No	No
3-6 Weeks	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	Fertilize at rate of 3/4lb slow release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet	No	No
22-28 Days	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
6 Weeks	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	No	No	No
7-10 Weeks	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"	Next regular application	First pesticide application	No
3 Months	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			No
6 Months	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			Aerate
1 Year	1" a week*	Cut to height of 2.75" to 3.5"			Dethatch/ Verti-Cut
NOTES	Sod lawn installation requires diligent watering for longer periods of time to get roots to establish in the turf. If water is running out from under the sod, the soil is saturated.	Do not water the lawn one to two days preceding lawn mowing. Continue watering cycle after first cut. Sharpen mower blades regularly.	Apply fertilizer at half the normal rate in shady lawn areas.	Put off making chemical weed control applications for as long as possible. Most herbicides can be toxic to young seedlings. *Use pesticides sparingly and only as needed.	Aerating at least once per year is recommended.

*Use a rain gauge, tin can or similar container to measure irrigation by placing it in the path of the sprinkler.