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Sod Care Guide

Warning!!!

Your new sod requires a great deal of water in the first couple days and will die if not properly watered. It also needs good, loose soil to root quickly. Your lawn is made up of living plants that need to be properly cared for. It needs the proper preparation, watering, mowing, and fertilization applications to become a beautifully established lawn. Your lawn will only look as good as the conditions you give it, so the proper maintenance is essential to having a beautiful lawn.

Watering

New sod should be watered as soon as possible after being installed. It should be thoroughly soaked at all times so the sod is wet but also so the dirt below it is soaked allowing the roots to grow into soft soil. The sod should be thoroughly soaked for the first couple of weeks. After the first couple weeks the sod needs to be thoroughly soaked every other day for another couple of weeks. After that the sod can be watered as a normal lawn would be watered. After your lawn is established Bluegrass sod requires 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch of water twice per week while Turf-type Fescue requires 1 1/2 to 2 inches of water every other week. The best time to water is in the early morning so less water is lost by evaporation. The worst time to water is in the evening because the lawns stay wet at night, which encourages disease and fungus development. Lawns watered too frequently tend to develop shallow root systems, which may make them more susceptible to grub damage and heat! drought stress. If your soil is heavy clay and you can tell the water is no longer being absorbed after 8-10 minutes of watering and is standing or running off, then go ahead and water often for shorter periods to accumulate the above mentioned amount each week.

Mowing

Once the sod is installed wait 14-21 days or when sod does not easily pull away from soil to do your first mowing. Let the lawn dry like you normally would before you mow so you avoid making tracks. (at least 12 hours) Before mowing make sure the mower is set on the highest setting so you don't scalp the plant sending it into shock. Wait a week and mow it again then resume your normal mowing schedule. If grass is tall, never cut more than one third of that height off in a single mowing or you can shock it.

Usually Bluegrass is mowed at 2 inches in the spring and fall and at 3 inches in the summer. Fescue should be mowed at 2 1/2 to 3 inches in the summer and at 3 1/2 to 4 inches in the summer. By setting the 1 inch higher in the summer (June, July, and August) this helps keep the plant cool reducing stress.

Fertilizer

A starter fertilizer without a pre-emergent may be applied on the dirt before the sod is installed or a starter fertilizer with a pre-emergent may be applied on the sod within 3 days of installation to prevent foxtail and crabgrass from growing up through the seams.

After installation your lawn we recommend your lawn be put on a regular fertilization schedule. Because so many variables attribute to a successful lawn, sod cannot be warranted. Please call immediately if your new sod looks 'stressed'.