



Caring for Your New Sod

New sod requires adequate watering and maintenance by the homeowner to ensure survival and proper root structure and growth. Avoid walking on your new sod for the first two weeks and follow the guidelines below.

WATERING

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as it has been placed. Your efforts will help insure the sod will grow and your lawn look its best. Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures.

The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of 1 inch per week. New sod requires twice as much water or 2 inches per week done in three or four applications. More frequent, lighter watering is not desirable - they encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain. During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked everyday. Checking to see if you are watering enough is easily done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container.

Any rainfall received during the week, can be included in you 2-inch a week watering total. You should continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall.

MOWING

Your new sod should not be mowed until either the grass lays over and mats down when wetted or the grass goes to seed. Do not be alarmed if either of these conditions do not occur in the first 30 days. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the remainder of the year. Your new sod will die if you cut it at the same setting used to cut a mature lawn.

FERTILIZING

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore it will not need fertilizer until the fall or next spring. If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod. When you do fertilize, use a 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or similar mixture and follow manufacturer's instructions on application rates.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Remember, even after your new sod appears to have taken hold, it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes a while for the roots to reach their length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still susceptible to dry conditions. Remember to deeply water. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize as described above if the sod begins to yellow.