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Sod Care Instructions

Warning!!!

Your new sod requires a great deal of water in the first couple days and will die if not properly watered. Your lawn is made up of living plants that need to be properly cared for. It needs the proper watering, mowing, fertilization and chemical applications to become a beautifully established lawn. Your lawn will only look as good as you allow it to look, 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 dirt. 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 to frequently tend to develop shallow root systems which may make them more susceptible to grub damage and heat/ drought stress.

Mowing

After the sod is installed wait 10 to 14 days to do your first mowing. Let the lawn dry like you normally would before you mow so you avoid making tracks. 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.

We recommend Bluegrass be 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) you will help 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. Bluegrass is recommended to be fertilized on approximately May 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and October 20th. Fescue is recommended to be fertilized on approximately May 1st, August 15th, and October 20th. When using fertilizers, pre-emergents, or any other chemicals always read and follow label directions.

Care Chart

	Bluegrass	Fescue
Watering	1/2 to 3/4 inch twice a week	1 1/2 to 2 inches every other week
Mowing Height Spring & Fall	2 inches	2 1/2 to 3 inches
Mowing Height Summer	3 inches	3 1/2 to 4 inches
Fertilization	May 1st, June 1st, September 1st & October 20th	May 1st, August 15th and October 20th