



Sod Installation & Establishment



Soil Preparation

- Soil Test the area or top soil that will be used for the area to be sodded first.
- Ideally you should have at least 6 inches of top soil. Loosen the soil to a depth 4 to 6 inches with rototiller or tillage implement.
- Eliminate drainage problems by having the soil slope away from the foundation or where water may puddle. Rake and smooth the soil; remove any debris or large dirt clods before lightly rolling the area to firm the soil surface.
- Spread Sod Starter prior to sod installation.

Sod Installation

- Start installation by laying sod along the longest straight line.
- Butt and push edges together tightly; avoid gaps or stretching the sod.
- Avoid kneeling on the sod while it is being installed or just after watering. It will take a few waterings for the soil to settle.
- Lightly roll the new sod to improve sod to soil contact.

Watering the New Sod Installation

- Water at least 1 inch of water within first 1/2 hour of installation.
- Depending on weather, plan to water daily or more often to keep the sod moist (not saturated) for the first two weeks.
- Check for root development; less frequent and deeper watering can begin after roots begin to develop.
- **CAUTION!** Less frequent watering as the sod develops a root system is very important. Less frequent watering will encourage the roots to go deeper "looking" for moisture. Deeper roots mean a more stable turf.



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Mowing

- Begin mowing as required. For mature or newly establish lawns, avoid removing more than 1/3 of leaf blade per mowing

Core Aeration

- Ideally within the first 3 to 6 month a deep core aeration of the newly laid sod will further enhance root development that will enable to the sod to finish establishment.
- Ideal time to spread the potentially needed fertilizer based on Soil Test results.

Sod Fertilization Maintenance

- Moderation is the key