



Winter Care for Your New Sod Lawn

THE FIRST 14 DAYS ARE CRITICAL

1. Lay the sod down the day that you get it! A light fertilizing should be applied prior to your laying your sod. A “starter” fertilizer would be the best. (Low in Nitrogen) If the starter fertilizer can’t be found, then an all-purpose fertilizer such as “Triple 15” can be used, just with a lighter application.
2. Now that the sod is on the ground, turn on your sprinklers and run each system at least 30 min. This watering should soak and hydrate the sod as well as the soil.
3. For the next 2 weeks, you will have to stay off the sod. Watering is essential. You must keep the sod in an “evenly moist condition”. This can be done by watering an estimated 2 times a day; 9AM and 1PM. How long do you water for? That will have to be up to you. “Low flow” nozzles will have to be run longer. Nozzles that put out a lot of water will be run a shorter amount of time. Soil type plays a large part in how long your sprinklers need to run and how often. Remember that you must keep the sod moist, NOT SOAKED. Do NOT let the sod dry out. Watch your sod. Standing water can result in overwatering. Too much water will result in problems as well as not enough.

MOWING YOUR LAWN

1. After the 2 weeks of watering, it is time to mow. Turn the sprinklers off at least 2 days before you mow. Allow the soil to be dry enough to take foot and mower traffic. Do not ever cut more than 1/3 of the height of your

grass. Different sod types have different mow heights

2. Cut the watering down to only 1 time a day, 9AM. Remember that sod does not grow as rapidly during the cooler months of the year.

REDUCTION OF WATER AFTER ROOT DEVELOPMENT

1. How much and how often you water will always depend on the weather outside. The higher the temperature the more moisture evaporation occurs. Watering is most efficient if done during the early morning hours. 3AM is the coolest part of the day and there will be less loss of water due to evaporation.

2. During the winter months, after the establishment period, watering may be reduced. Watering will also depend on the rainfall that your area is having. Sod does not grow very much during the winter months. Mowing will be at a minimum. A good rule to follow is that you water less often, but longer periods of time. Deep watering is preferred because you want to encourage the roots to go down. Roots will stay where the moisture is. Shallow watering is not recommended.