



Most Common Errors with Sod Care and Installations

Improper Irrigation Systems

Hand watering will not suffice! Sprinkler heads must rise above lawn level, water patterns must overlap, and timers are recommended.

Covering Sod

Do not cover sod with plastic, shade cloth, burlap, or anything! Have sod delivered only when you are ready to install immediately. Never cover it!

Doing Preparation While Laying Sod

Prepare at least two days in advance. You will spot uneven areas and get poor drainage.

Not Pre-Irrigating

Water the area of installation the night before. Dry soil under new sod robs the roots of moisture.

Not Using a Roller, Twice

Light rolling after sod is installed minimizes poor initial contact. Roll as final step in preparation and installation.

Not Watering as You Install

After every ten pieces (50 sq. ft.), take a break, and lightly water everything you've installed, as you go.

Applying Fungicide Don't

Do not apply fungicide to a new lawn! It is very rare that a new lawn develops fungus.

Delaying the First Mowing

Mow for the first time in 8-12 days after installation. Waiting longer does not aid establishment.

Mowing Too Short

Never remove more than 1/3 of the blade length in any one mowing. Check the mowing heights of the variety you've chosen. If your lawn gets out of hand, reduce blade length by 1/3 over a succession of mowing 5 days apart.

Heavy Traffic

Even light foot traffic should be avoided for four weeks.

Premature Feeding

Never feed before a lawn is one month old. Tender, new lawns do not take well to a "hot" feeding. Never feed before a lawn is one month old. Then, only feed with a mild, balanced (eg 16-16-16) time release fertilizer; not ammonium sulfate.

Improper Irrigation

Most Important! New lawns should be watered 15-20 minutes, three times a day. 7am, 11 am, and 3 pm for the first 14 days. Subsequent watering instructions are given in this guide. Hand watering will not be sufficient. **DO NOT WATER AT NIGHT!**

Failure to Read, Understand, Follow, and Keep this Guide—

Read it and keep it. This guide gives you complete instructions for preparation and installation. It also advises you on changes in watering and feeding schedules and assists you in troubleshooting.