

SODDING YOUR LAWN

Preparing the site

Remove all vegetation. A non-selective herbicide such as Fertilome *KillZall* or Round-Up which does not sterilize the soil is excellent for this purpose.

Modify the soil if needed for good drainage or aeration. Spagnum peat moss or mushroom compost may be used. Till the soil to a depth of two to five inches.

Level and grade the soil. Allow the soil to settle before proceeding.

Apply starter fertilizer high in phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) such as *Lebanon Seed Starter*. This fertilizer encourages root system development.

Water the prepared soil surface and allow to soak in. Soil should be moist but not wet when you lay the sod.

Installing the sod

Pick the longest run of length in the yard and lay in that direction.

Stagger the seams. Start every other row with a half piece to avoid having the ends of the sod pieces lining up with one another.

Pull seams tightly together and hand tamp into place.

Avoid using small pieces when piecing for corners or ends. These will dry out too quickly.

Water immediately after laying the sod to the point of total saturation. This means that the sod will be soggy and marsh-like. You will not be able to walk on the sod. Carefully follow watering recommendations for the next few weeks.

Caring for your Newly Sodded Lawn

Water is extremely critical for newly sodded lawns. Any drying during the first few days will sacrifice the quality of your lawn and can cause shrinkage, which will result in visible seams.

Immediately after sodding, water to the point of saturation. You will not be able to walk on the sod, and it will be soggy. Make sure all areas of the sod get watered to the point of saturation.

First two to three days continue to water to the point of saturation. You will have to check the sod frequently to assure that it is still saturated. If the temperatures are 75 or less, you may be able to get by with one watering per day. If the temperature rises to above 75 degrees, you may need to water to the point of saturation, two or three times daily. Wind also causes sod to dry more quickly. Be especially careful on warm, windy days.

First week (after first two to three days) water to the point of saturation once per day. You still need to check on hot, windy days to see if additional watering may be necessary.

Second week water every other day, but not to the point of saturation. Water deeply and thoroughly.

Third week you should be able to start a normal watering schedule.

Water during the heat or the day, if needed. It will not harm your sod, and it is during the heat of the day that the most drying occurs and damage is done.

Hand water any areas missed by sprinklers or next to concrete where they may dry out more.

Do not walk on the sod during the first week when it is in the saturation stage. This will destroy the grade under the sod.

Do not roll the sod. There really is no benefit.

Fertilize after the fourth week with a starter fertilizer again. Then start with a regular lawn care maintenance schedule.

Mow when the sod has started to root out. Pull back a piece of the sod and check for root hairs.

Allow sod to dry for a day or so after watering, set mower at a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches, mow, and then water thoroughly.

Follow a regular lawn care maintenance schedule, which includes proper fertilization, weed control, and aeration. Aeration should be done in September.

**Consult the professionals at Green View for additional information
on the sodding and care of your lawn.**