

Troubleshooting hints

Bluish gray areas appearing on the lawn– These spots are appearing because they are not getting as much water as other areas. Adjust your sprinkler system to ensure better coverage.

Sod not rooting– Within 10 days after installation your sod should have many roots emerging, if not check your watering. Note that sod in the shade will root much slower than sod in sunny areas.

Brown spots– These can be caused by pets, dry spots that are not rooting or a possible fungus. Typically brown spots are caused by lack of water. Check by pushing a screwdriver into the ground where the sod is green and then in to the brown spot. If it is harder to push in to the green spot, you will know it is too dry. Fungal diseases can usually be controlled with a fungicide, which can be purchased at your local garden center.

Mushrooms– Mushrooms do not pose a threat to the sod, once you reduce your watering frequency the mushrooms will go away.

Please remember that sod is not necessarily the answer to cure any previous problems you may have had in your lawn. Soil replacement may be needed and previous drainage-runoff problems should be corrected before sodding.

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The sod you have received from Johnson Farms is the finest you can possibly purchase. It has been delivered within 24 hours of harvesting in its full freshness and vigor, free of weeds, disease and insect infestation. But like any living plant that has been removed from the soil, put on a truck, delivered and replanted at your new location, it must now devote its energies to re-establishing itself with new root growth. Sod is perishable and must not be allowed to remain on the pallet. Proper watering is essential to the establishment of your new sod. During the first week the sod must be thoroughly soaked immediately after being laid down. Watering intervals may need to be increased during very hot weather. Frequency and length of watering will depend on how warm, how windy and how rapidly the lawn dries out after each watering.



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SOD CARE GUIDE



Before Installation & Watering

Once you have leveled your ground, you can rake in a starter fertilizer that is high in phosphorus. This will allow for a nutrient rich root environment.

After applying your starter fertilizer, check the pH of your soil. The pH should be somewhere between 6.0-6.5, If you soil does not fall in that range rake lime in to the soil to adjust the pH level.

Always remember sod is a perishable product and should be installed as soon as it is received, especially in the warmer months.

My sod has been laid ,now what?

Begin watering your sod within a half hour after installation. Be sure to apply at least one inch of water so that the soil under the sod is very wet.

For the next 2 weeks you should water your lawn daily and ensure that the roots are soaked.

Avoid walking on your newly installed sod for the next 2 weeks so that your sod can root and you can avoid leaving any indentations.

How can I tell if my sod is getting enough water?

- Pull back the corner of the sod and push a screwdriver into the soil. It should push into the soil easily and have moisture along the first 3 inches.



Watering & Mowing

- Make sure your sprinkler system is reaching all areas of yard. Corners and edges are easily missed by sprinkler systems.
- An easy way to measure that your sod is receiving 1 inch of water is to put a tuna fish can out where the water from the sprinkler hits, once the can is filled you know that your sod has received 1 inch.

Here's a tip.. Infrequent and deep watering is preferred to frequent and shallow watering. This is because the sods roots will only grow as deep as their most available water supply.

What time of the day should I water my sod?

- The most ideal time to water your lawn is in the morning, in order to take advantage of the grass' normal growing cycle. Watering at night is discouraged, water that remains on the grass may promote disease and fungus .

How much water does my sod need?

- An inch of water a week is typically the rule of thumb
- An easy way to tell if your sod is in need of watering is to observe the color of you lawn. If it has a blue-grey cast rather than blue-green to green color, it is in need of watering. Or, if your footprints still appear on the lawn after 30 minutes

When can I begin mowing my sod?

- You can begin mowing , as soon as the sod has rooted(approx. 6 weeks). Never remove more than 1/3 of the blade of grass.

Here's a tip....Always keep the blades on your mower sharp. Dull blades tear the grass rather than making a clean cut. These tears can cause the grass to lose more water, create stress on the grass and make it more vulnerable to disease.

Fertilization

How soon after laying my sod can I fertilize?

- You can fertilize your sod about 6 weeks after installation or if the sod has rooted.
- Be sure to use a fertilizer that contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The nitrogen will promote rapid growth, leaf development chlorophyll formation and protein synthesis. Phosphorus promotes early root growth and aids seed formation. Potassium will help with drought resistance and aid also in root growth.

What time of the year is the best time to fertilize?

- It is best to fertilize lightly in the spring and early summer and heavily in the fall. By fertilizing heavily in the fall it will promote root growth through the winter and help for a quicker green up in the spring. We recommend using a 4 step program for fertilization.

Here's a few tips..

Always be sure to water your sod right after the application of the fertilizer in order to prevent leaf burn.

Do not apply your fertilizer to sod that is wet or dewy. Wait until it has dried and then apply your fertilizer.

