

FACTORS TO CONSIDER	SEED	HYDROSEED	TURFGRASS SOD
Time of year to install	Not recommended for Winter or Summer, possible in Spring, best in Fall for most areas. 1 / 2 / 3	Not recommended for Winter or Summer, possible in Spring, best in Fall for most areas. 1 / 2 / 3	Year-round installation, even on frozen ground if sod is available. 1 / 2 / 3
Soil Preparation	Same for all types of lawn installation: Deeply till soil, add necessary amendments and fertilizers, grade and level for smooth surface, remove all debris, lightly pack and moisten. 1 / 2 / 3	Same for all types of lawn installation: Deeply till soil, add necessary amendments and fertilizers, grade and level for smooth surface, remove all debris, lightly pack and moisten. 1 / 2 / 3	Same for all types of lawn installation: Deeply till soil, add necessary amendments and fertilizers, grade and level for smooth surface, remove all debris, lightly pack and moisten. 1 / 2 / 3
Water Requirements	Highest water needs- Bare soil will dry quickly. Water lightly for 3-4 weeks, keeping surface moist, begin to apply 1-inch of water per week after mowing. 1 / 2 / 3	Moderate to high water needs. Mulch will preserve some moisture. 1 / 2 / 3	Lowest water needs- Water at installation to a depth of 6-inches, then light waterings for next 2-3 weeks. Grass will shade soil and prevent drying. 1 / 2 / 3
Seed Quality	Extremely variable because of germination rates, weed and foreign matter content; unknown or unspecified varieties. Generally lower quality seed than used in cultivated sod production. 1 / 2 / 3	Extremely variable because of germination rates, weed and foreign matter content; unknown or unspecified varieties. Generally lower quality seed than used in cultivated sod production. 1 / 2 / 3	Typically highest available sod quality, certified, elite seed. May be certified to prove specific variety. Mixtures and blends used to suit area needs. 1 / 2 / 3
Weed Control	Multiple applications of chemicals usually required to combat competitive weed invasions until turf is well established. Mulch layer may reduce some problems. 1 / 2 / 3	Multiple applications of chemicals usually required to combat competitive weed invasions until turf is well established. Mulch layer may reduce some problems. 1 / 2 / 3	Minimal, if any chemical control needed. 1 / 2 / 3
Uniformity of Coverage	Seeding varieties, rates, germination times, wash-outs (erosion), traffic, feeding birds and rodents can create spottiness. Mulch layer may reduce some problems. 1 / 2 / 3	Seeding varieties, rates, germination times, wash-outs (erosion), traffic, feeding birds and rodents can create spottiness. Mulch layer may reduce some problems. 1 / 2 / 3	99 to 100% uniformity with use of mature turfgrass sod. 1 / 2 / 3
Runoff / Erosion	Heavy rains or sloping areas will cause seed, chemicals and silt to wash onto sidewalks and into sewer systems. Little if any protection. Mulch should reduce erosion/runoff for several months. 1 / 2 / 3	Heavy rains or sloping areas will cause seed, chemicals and silt to wash onto sidewalks and into sewer systems. Little if any protection. Mulch should reduce erosion/runoff for several months. 1 / 2 / 3	Capable of handling heavy rains without erosion or damage. 1 / 2 / 3
Visual Impact	Rough texture and open soil. 1 / 2 / 3	Colored mulches act to camouflage soil appearance. 1 / 2 / 3	Immediate beauty of a 'complete' and mature landscape. 1 / 2 / 3
Useability	Low traffic use 2 to 4 months after seeding with faster germinating seed. Normal to high use only after first year. 1 / 2 / 3	Low traffic use 2 to 4 months after seeding with faster germinating seed. Normal to high use only after first year. 1 / 2 / 3	Low traffic immediately. Normal, high traffic levels within 2 to 3 weeks. 1 / 2 / 3
Installation Costs	Lowest cost. 1 / 2 / 3	Low to Mid-level cost. 1 / 2 / 3	Highest cost. 1 / 2 / 3
Cost vs. Value	Higher management and maintenance costs, compounded by increased water and chemical applications, as well as delay of use, poor uniformity and visually unappealing are trade-offs for lower installation cost. 1 / 2 / 3	Higher management and maintenance costs, compounded by increased water and chemical applications, as well as delay of use, poor uniformity and visually unappealing are trade-offs for lower installation cost. 1 / 2 / 3	Installation costs offset by added values of timing, useability, uniformity and visual appeal. Reduced maintenance, chemical and water costs. 1 / 2 / 3
SCORE TOTALS	Seeding =	Hydroseeding =	Sodding =