



Early Sod Care Instructions

Congratulations on your new sod installation! Follow the sod care steps below to protect your investment and have a great lawn.

1. First day watering - Check your new sod a few hours after it has been laid by walking on it. If you make deep footprints, it has enough water. If the soil is firm, lift a corner of the sod to inspect. The soil on the back of the sod should be damp to wet. If it is not damp, water at least 30 minutes.
2. Second through fifth day watering - Check your lawn at least one time per day or more than once if it is hot or windy. Walk on the new lawn and inspect it. If the soil is soft and you make deep footprints, or water has puddled in areas, it is too wet and you should stop watering for awhile and reduce the amount of future watering. If the soil is firm, lift a corner of several pieces of sod. The soil should be damp, not dripping wet or dusty dry. Areas where the grass has wilted or turned straw color have not received enough water. If cracks appear between the rolls, this indicates not enough water has been applied. Water more often to correct this. Under watered sod usually will turn green again in seven days or so if corrective measures were taken soon enough. Temperatures above 80 generally mean more water is needed, and below 60 mean less water is needed. In the cooler months of March, April, October and November, sod needs much less water.
3. Further watering - After five days or so, the soil has soaked up water like a sponge and you must reduce your watering habits. Grass plant roots will not grow into waterlogged soils! Begin stretching out the time between watering. When fully rooted, most lawns need to be watered only one time per week.
4. Mowing - Mow your new grass when it needs it. Follow Long Term recommendations for the month you are in. Arrange it so you do not water just before mowing to prevent the making of footprints.
5. Fertilization - Do not apply any fertilizer for at least three weeks after installation. Then, fertilize by the program you have selected.
6. Herbicides - Do not apply any crabgrass herbicides for at least one year after installation.

Questions? Contact us for assistance at 877-933-GROW (4769)