

New Sod

Above Ground Watering Systems

Your sod will require more water than any other plants in your landscape. When your sod is first installed it will need to remain moist at all times until the roots have become established in the soil. Watering to the point of runoff is required for a couple of weeks until the sod roots in. The following are intended as guidelines, as each property has its own unique characteristics and may be treated differently as required.

NEW SOD:

First Two Weeks: Everyday

<u>3 times per day:</u>	<u>Pop-Up Heads</u>	<u>Rotor Heads</u>
6:00 A.M.	7 Minutes	10-15 Minutes
12:00 P.M.	7 Minutes	10-15 Minutes
6:00 P.M.	7 Minutes	10-15 Minutes

After Two Weeks (Once Sod Established): Every Third Day

<u>2 times per day:</u>	<u>Pop-Up Heads</u>	<u>Rotor Heads</u>
6:00 A.M.	10 Minutes	15-18 Minutes
6:00 P.M.	10 Minutes	15-18 Minutes

Watering times may vary depending on the unique characteristics of your landscape such as exposure, slope, drainage, etc.

Sub-Surface Irrigation Systems

With this system you will see significant water savings versus a traditional pop-up system. A sub-surface irrigation system is designed to water plants and sod directly at the root zone. This design prevents water evaporation from topographical watering. This also reduces run-off due to over watering. We recommend you operate the system in several short watering cycles to allow maximum saturation. We have outlines some simple programming guidelines to help you achieve a lush, beautiful landscape and save water at the same time.

Spring/Fall Watering

3-4 start time

2-5 days per week

4-8 minutes per zone

Summer Watering

5-8 start times

5-7 days per week

4-8 minutes per zone

Some considerations to watering: Maturity of Landscape, Topography, Sun Exposure, Soil Conditions.

Mowing

You should plan on your first mowing to occur approximately 2 to 3 weeks after installation or when the sod has taken root. Set your mower to the highest setting and be prepared to make several cuts and remove the grass clippings.

You should plan on mowing at least once per week, gradually dropping the mower blade height to between 2 to 3 inches high. It is recommended that you should not remove more than 1/3 of the height of your sod at any one mowing.

Many times when the grass is tall and more than a third is removed, or after the first cut, the grass will appear lighter and bleached. This is normal and it should green up after a few days with increased exposure to the sun.

Do not mow your lawn if the grass is wet. Be sure your mower blades are sharp to prevent brown tipping which is a result of tearing instead of cutting the grass blade.

Fertilizing Your Sod

New sod does not require fertilization for at least 2 months. At what point in the year your sod was installed will determine how many fertilizations you should complete for the remainder of the first year. On average, lawns are fertilized at least 4 times per year approximately around the following holidays: Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. For example, if your sod was installed in early May, the next fertilization should take place in early July and again around Labor Day.

Excess fertilization should be avoided – more is not necessarily better – because of the promotion of excessive salts and the potential for burning.

Slow release fertilizer products are generally preferred to promote continual growth. Quick release fertilizers commonly result in growth spurts with less desirable growth results. Use a fertilizer blend made specifically for sod/turf application, high in nitrogen, and be sure to follow the directions on the label for proper application.

Fertilizer products will stain concrete, flagstone and hardscape surfaces, so be sure to sweep off fertilizer spills.

Sod Aeration

The soil beneath your sod will become compacted as a result of traffic on the lawn from people and pets as well as the amount of water applied to the lawn over the course of the growing season. This compaction can negatively impact turf growth by preventing air and water from reaching the root level. To prevent this we recommend that you have your lawn aerated at least twice per year, preferably in the early spring and fall. At the very least, you should aerate once in the spring to keep your turf in good condition.

This process involves removing plugs from the turf to facilitate air flow and water absorption. It is advised to leave the plugs on the lawn and let them decompose, adding organic matter to the top layer. In high traffic areas you may want to consider aerating a minimum of twice per year.

It is NOT necessary to aerate your lawn for the first growing season. Power raking is NOT recommended except in unique circumstances. Power raking has proven to damage young grass blades and root crowns. Aeration allows air and moisture to penetrate thatch layers and help speed up the decomposition of the thatch which is more desirable.