

## NEW SOD CARE

Watering your new sod after it has been installed is very critical. Regular watering is necessary until the root system has become deeply established, usually one full summer, but up to 2 full summers where soil is heavy clay or compacted.

For example, sod that is laid in August should be given frequent shallow watering during the hot weeks of August and September, then watering can be reduced as the weather cools. However, because the root system is not completely established, a careful watering program should begin again the next spring, and should continue through the hot months. Failure to do so could result in a burned lawn when the temperatures reach 80 degrees.

The following is a guide for the first 4 weeks of watering sod laid during a hot weather period (highs in the 80's or above).

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week 1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Week 2	1	1	1	1	1		1
Week 3		1	*	1			1
Week 4	1		1		1	*	1

2 = Water two times daily    1 = Water once daily    \* = Mow

The following is a guide for the first 4 weeks of watering sod laid during a cooler period (highs in the 70's or below).

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week 1	2	2	1	1	1	1	
Week 2	1		1		1		1
Week 3		1	*		1		
Week 4	1				1		

2 = Water two times daily    1 = Water once daily    \* = Mow

For the initial watering, 1/2" of water at each watering will soak the sod adequately. In later weeks, as the watering frequency decreases, 1" should be applied at each watering. To determine how long to run your sprinkler, use a small can with low sides placed in the sod to measure the water (a tuna can works well).

Allow sod to grow 4"-5" before mowing. Mow no shorter than 3".

September fertilizing is recommended for new sod, however, do not fertilize for the first 60 days after it is laid. For sod laid down in fall, fertilize in May.