

Vertumni

fine landscaping & gardening

Care Instructions for Sod Installations

Regular and frequent watering of your freshly installed sod is critical until the root systems become firmly established. In the first 7-10 days it is very important to keep the new sod consistently damp and free of foot traffic. The roots of your new sod can penetrate the soil much faster and root down much sooner if properly watered. Water until one-half inch of water has accumulated in a flat container such as a tuna can. Mowing for the first two weeks is not recommended.

After about two weeks, and once the sod has knit, it should be watered enough over the first few months to maintain a healthy growing condition. After the sod is well established, deep watering at 4 to 7 day intervals is suggested, depending on soil texture. Water until one inch of water has accumulated. Water during daylight hours only, as late evening watering during hot weather may create fungus problems.

Your sod should be mowed to a height of 1 to 1 1/2 inches. Never cut more than 1/3 of the total leaf off at any one time. The removal of all clippings is recommended. Mowing while the sod is damp is not recommended.

Your new lawn will need more water the first growing season and especially the first 6 months. The key to new sod care during this time is deep watering less frequently. This will help the roots grow down and develop a deep root system that uses less water. However, be careful not to over water your new lawn as too much water can increase the likelihood of disease and deprive the roots of oxygen. If you are concerned that you may be applying too much water, reduce the watering time until you begin to see lawn wilt, then increase your time by a small amount.