



## **Watering and Care Instructions for Sod**

On average it will take your new sod between 10 and 14 days to root following sod installation. During the first two weeks, your sod will form a shallow root system — which is why you will have a more rigorous water schedule. Shallow roots are more susceptible to drying out and watering will help prevent the sod from becoming compromised.

Weeks after installation, your sod will begin forming a deeper root zone into the soil and you will be able to decrease the amount of water as well as the duration time.

### **Week 1**

For the first week, you should water your lawn 3 times a day for a duration of 30 minutes each time. Every watering session should provide the right amount of water to get the roots and soil thoroughly wet.

Be mindful of sod along the edges of your landscape or hard surfaces where it is more likely to dry out. You may want to spend extra time watering in those areas. If any areas of the lawn appear to be drying out, make sure they receive additional water coverage.

### **Week 2**

In the second week, you can begin pairing back the watering time to twice per day for the same duration. However, you should still be keeping an eye out for dry patches to prevent your sod from dying.

Continue to monitor the soil, ensuring that it remains moist without becoming waterlogged or dried out.

### **Week 3**

In the third week your sod should be established enough to cut your watering back to once a day. Continue to keep an eye out for dry patches. By the end of this week your lawn should be ready for you to mow for the first time. It is recommended you let it dry for at least a day if not 2 before mowing.



## **Week 4**

Week 4 is considered your transition week. You will move your watering schedule to 2-3 days a week for 30-45 minutes, which should be a normal schedule moving forward. Early morning watering is the best time to water your lawn.

After the first month, you can begin maintaining your newly installed sod. A round of starter fertilizer is recommended after the first month to jump start the sod with nutrients that were filtered out from all the watering.

## **Mowing**

Proper mowing technique is an important part of a lawn maintenance program that is often overlooked. Mowing lawns too short (scalping), or infrequently, causes grass to become susceptible to drought injury, weed infestations (especially crabgrass), and foot traffic injury.

When mowing during the season follow the “one-third” rule. Remove only one-third of the vegetation (measure from the soil line to the blade tips) at each mowing. Removing too much of the leaf blade at each cutting stresses the new lawn.

Soil should be dry enough so that ruts are not formed by the wheels of the lawnmower.

Mower blades should be sharp, so a clean cut is made.

Generally, mowing needs to be done on a weekly basis during the growing season.

## **Fertilizing**

Fertilizer applications can begin after your first mowing. A regular fertilization program every 6 to 8 weeks is sufficient for the sod.

New sod is sensitive to chemical injury, so broadleaf herbicides should not be applied until the lawn has been mowed at least three or four times. Follow label directions.