



S O D S M I T H



Sod Maintenance Guide

Thank you for choosing Sod Smith

We are so grateful that you chose us for your sod project! Please review the following instructions to ensure your sod stays healthy all summer long.

Sod Type:

- Sod Smith exclusively uses Kentucky Bluegrass sod. Deep green and resilient, Bluegrass is a cool weather variety that performs optimally in Minnesota's climate.
- Bluegrass germinates in cool weather (spring and fall), but will perform well in the summer as long as it receives enough water.
- To find out more about more about Kentucky Bluegrass, visit:
<http://bit.ly/kentuckybluegrass>

First Two Weeks:

- Do your best to stay off your new sod. This includes your furry friends as well as children. If you have to walk on the sod, try to stay on the seams to prevent pulling them apart.
- *Proper watering is essential* for root establishment, underwatering is the number one danger for new sod.
- As a general rule, keep sod and soil moist all throughout the day. 2 to 4 sprinklings per day (morning and afternoon) for 15-20 minutes is optimal. Adjust for temperature and sun/shade coverage.

- *First mow is approximately 14 days* after installation except in fall, which will require a longer time (approx 20 days) before the first mow.
- Reduce frequency of irrigations to once per day, 2 days before the first mow to firm up the soil. Do not mow the day after a heavy rain.
- *Adjust your mower to the highest blade setting* (biggest distance from blade to ground). Never mow off more than one-third of the grass blade (approx. 2.75 - 3.5 inch blade height).

Three to Four Weeks:

- *Re-adjust your watering clock or timer.* Reduce frequency of waterings gradually after each mowing, while *increasing minutes per watering* to once a day for 30-40 minutes after one month.
- Deeper, less frequent soakings will help roots grow deeper and establish more quickly into the soil. Pull or tug on turf to check rooting.
- Optional: *Fertilize your new lawn after one month* to continue encouraging rooting and establishment. Options include Master Nursery Master Green Lawn Food or Master Nursery Formula 49.

Troubleshooting Tips:

- Sod not rooting? – Most sod varieties will begin to root within 10 to 14 days. Check the watering schedule and adjust to deeper, less frequent soaking. Excessive shade will slow down rooting.
- Bluish-grey spots on lawn or footprints show after being walked on – Drought stressed spots in the lawn. Try increasing minutes per watering and adjust sprinkler coverage.
- Mushrooms? – Temporary nuisance, usually growing in compost mixed into the soil at preparation. As waterings get deeper and less often, mushrooms usually dry up and wither away.

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- Edges turning brown and/or gaps between rolls? – Sod is shrinking or has pulled up at the corners. Usually due to lack of water. Increase minutes per watering and frequency to minimize gaps. Also, hand watering sod will help shrink gaps, press down edges with foot after watering.

Got Dogs?

Keep Your Dog Off New Sod

The roots of freshly laid sod are close to the surface and much more susceptible to damage from animal urine. Keep your dog completely off your lawn until the new sod is established (2-4 weeks).

Create a Safe Space for Your Dog

Consider a dedicated space away from your lawn for your dog to both play and defecate (an especially good idea if your dog tends to dig, which presents obvious problems for sod).

Wash Away the Urine

A well-watered lawn will resist damage from animal urine better than one that is dried out. You can also hand water with a watering can in the areas in which your dog urinates right after he or she goes, which can help dilute the urine's damaging nitrogen and salts.

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