



QUALITY SOD LAWNS SINCE 1969

Sod Installation and Maintenance

When
only the
BEST
is good
enough

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Visit our garden center,
Garden Accents at
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Grass Farm
602 Palm Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
408.779.3148 / 408.463.0500
www.grassfarm.com

Garden Accents
11155 Lena Avenue
Gilroy, CA 95020
408.846.4555
www.garden-accents.net

Installation

Any problems with your new sod will be obvious within the first week. Please notify Grass Farm no later than 2 weeks from the delivery date for problems or questions.

Your ground preparation should be complete before your sod arrives. Sod is perishable and should be installed immediately. However, if you cannot install your sod immediately upon its arrival, keep it moist and in the shade. Do not cover with plastic, as this will cause heat build-up and cook your sod. If you wish to cover your sod, use a bed sheet, burlap or other breathable material.

Step 1: Pre-plant Fertilizer

Just before rolling out your sod, apply a pre-plant fertilizer to the ground. This helps the sod transplant more readily. Grass Farm offers a fertilizer low in nitrogen and higher in potassium & phosphorus than typically used for maintenance of established turf. This promotes quick root growth for your new sod lawn. In hot weather above 90°F, pre-plant fertilizer is not recommended at time of installation. You may use the pre-plant once the temperature has dropped below 80°F on top of the lawn as you would a maintenance fertilizer. Always follow directions on the fertilizer bag.



Step 2: Sod Installation

Start laying sod along the longest straight edge of your lawn area. Fit joints and seams closely; do not overlap or leave gaps. Stagger pieces so seams form a brick like pattern. A sod knife works best to cut around borders, trees and sprinkler heads. In hot weather above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, water lightly after each 200 square feet installed.



Step 3: Rolling Sod

Water lightly, then roll sod to bring lawn into close contact with your prepared soil. Rolling eliminates air spaces between the sod and soil, which enhances your lawn's rooting and prevents premature drying.



Step 4: Watering

Water is the most important aspect of sod transplanting. For the next 7 to 10 days, keep the sod moist (not flooded) at all times. Generally, an application of 1/4 inch of water three times per day at 5:00am, 10:00am and 2:00pm is sufficient. A water audit should be done to determine how long it takes with your irrigation system to apply 1/4" of water. Evening watering, between 3:00pm and 1:00am is not recommended as this could cause turf diseases. Gradually transition from watering three times per day from initial Installation watering down to the

Maintenance watering schedule which is explained on the reverse side of this sheet. *Keep in mind, in hot, dry windy weather it may be necessary to sprinkle new sod even more often to avoid wilting and sod damage.* Sod lawns can be damaged from too much or too little watering. A correct watering schedule is crucial to new and established lawns. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Representatives for a full explanation, or visit our websites at www.grassfarm.com or www.garden-accents.net



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*Enjoy all the
benefits your
lawn gives you,
your family
and our
environment!*

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Maintenance

The key to the continued health of your new lawn is the right amount of water, mowing and a regular fertilizer application program.

Watering

Most lawn problems result from improper watering (either too much or too little). After sod is established, water less often for longer periods of time, paying close attention to the amount of water applied. Once established Dwarf Champion only requires water every 4th day in the summer to stay green. To judge how much time this will take for your lawn, you can audit your sprinkler system by placing cups in the lawn area and measuring the amount of water captured in a specific length of time. Watch the Water Audit video on our websites to learn how to conduct your water audit. Detailed information on watering is available from Grass Farm Customer Service or at our website: www.grassfarm.com or www.garden-accents.net.



Mowing

Regular weekly mowing is strongly recommended (in winter you can go 2 weeks with our Dwarf Champion or Prestige). Mow your lawn when the blade height is between 2.5 to 3.5 inches, never cutting off more than 1/3 of the entire leaf blade in one mowing. Be cautious when mowing; scalped or closely cut areas damage your lawn and provide opportunities for weed infestation. A sharp, properly adjusted lawn mower produces a clean cut allowing the grass blade to heal fast. Dull mowers injure the lawn's leaf blades (which may affect the overall health of your lawn). Grass cycling recycles nutrients back to the lawn and simplifies mowing by eliminating the need to bag clippings (leaving the clipping on your lawn). Ask a Grass Farm representative for current information on lawn health tips.

Fertilization

Well-fertilized turf will be strong and vigorous. If pre plant fertilizer has not been used, newly sodded turf should be fertilized 15 days after installation. If pre plant fertilizer was used, wait for 30 to 45 days to apply more fertilizer. Then, establish a regular schedule of fertilization every 60 to 90 days. In warm weather, a slow release fertilizer should be used, while a quick release fertilizer is recommended in the colder winter months. Consult your Grass Farm representative for specific information on fertilizer products. To avoid burning your lawn, be sure to strictly follow all labels and application instructions.

**Grass Farm & Garden Accents
offers a wide variety of organic
and synthetic fertilizers to
keep your lawn healthy.
Contact us to see which kind
works best for you.**

Weed, Pest and Disease Control

A healthy, vigorous lawn is the best barrier to weed infestation. Tightly laid sod can choke out most weeds. Proper watering and fertilization will also prevent most pests and diseases from attacking. In the event a problem does develop, visit Grass Farm's Turf Supply Store for products and information.