

Trouble Shooting Guide



Irrigation and maintenance

FREE



BROWN AREAS

Water Deprivation

Sprinkler heads must rise above lawn level. Confirm water is reaching edges along sidewalks and spray patterns overlap.

Helpful Suggestion: Before delivery, test the irrigation system on the installation surface; identifying dry areas. Replace or adjust sprinkler heads, as needed.

Poor Contact

Soil may have settled, creating air pockets. Pull back the new sod, fill the area with clean soil, and ensure contact between sod and soil. Hand water the area thoroughly.

Helpful suggestion: Use a roller twice; in the final stage of soil preparation, and after sod is installed. (The roller should be 1/3 full).

Installation Error

Sod seams must be tight and abut driveways and sidewalks. Airspace causes dryness. If the lawn adjoins a flowerbed, edges must have soil pushed against them.

Helpful suggestion: Begin installation along edges. See the "Installation" section of this guide.

SOGGY AREAS

Standing Water

Poor drainage or an air pocket under sod allows water to pool. A small area can be remedied by aerating with a screwdriver, then leveling the pocket with clean soil.

Helpful suggestion: Improve drainage with amendments recommended in the "Preparation" section of this guide.

Night Watering

Adjust the irrigation schedule, allowing the lawn to dry before nightfall.

THINNING

Inadequate Sunlight

Helpful suggestion: Prune or thin trees or shrubs prior to installation.

Over Watering

Frequent, shallow watering of established lawns, leach nutrients and prevent proper oxygen absorption.

Helpful suggestion: If the lawn is mature, feed with a balanced fertilizer and schedule irrigation to be deeper and less frequent.

Water requirements can vary for locales with greater precipitation. The guidelines below are for warm weather and/or drier climates. The necessity is that the sod base and soil remain evenly moist for the first two weeks for rooting to occur.

First 14 days

After 14 days

- 6 am daily for 20-25 minutes. Shaded areas may require less water

After 30 days

- 10 am 2-3 times weekly for 30 minutes. Shaded areas may require less water.

Helpful hints

- Do not water lawns of any age at night; it may promote disease.
- During periods of extreme heat or dry winds, the lawn may require additional water.
- The object is to water deeply, less frequently to encourage deep rooting.



Fertilization

- Feed new lawns for the first time after 30 days. Use a balanced fertilizer (16-16-16 i.e.)
- Feed every 4-8 weeks April through September



Mowing guide lines

- Mow for the first time on day 14 to 3 inches. The blades must be dry. Never remove more than 1/3 of the blade in any one mowing. The lawn must be well established before a riding mower is used.



Variety	Mowing Heights
Bermuda	1 1/2" CA 1"
Bluegrass	1 1/2-2"
Centipede	2"
Fescue	1 1/2-2"
Ryegrass	1 1/2"
St. Augustine	3" CA 1"
Zoysia	2"



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YELLOW SPOTS

Pet Waste

If you have pets (male or female), you will have yellow spots. This is unavoidable.

Acidic Drip

Some trees and shrubs (especially conifers and eucalyptus) may cause yellowing or poor growth under the drip line.

Pool or Spa Splash

Chlorine and chemicals will yellow a lawn.

COMMON ERRORS

Read this section before beginning installation

Covering sod – Do not cover sod with plastic, shade cloth, burlap, etc. It may burn.

Preparing and installing the same day – Prepare 2 days in advance to identify uneven areas

Not using a roller – You will need it twice for adequate contact.

Not pre-irrigating – Water the area the night before installation. Dry soil under new sod robs the roots of moisture.

Not watering as you install – Lightly water after every 10 pieces. New sod cannot be allowed to dry out; even for a short time.

Inadequate irrigation system – Hand watering will not suffice. Spray patterns must overlap and reach all areas. Timers are recommended.

Delayed mowing – Mow lightly the first time on day 14

Scalping – Never remove more than 1/3 of blade length.

Check the mowing heights in this guide for your variety.

Premature fertilization – Do not feed a lawn before it has matured a month.

Applying Fungicide – Effective application requires a dry surface. New lawns will not tolerate this condition.



Installing your turfgrass lawn

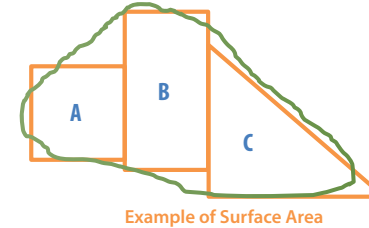
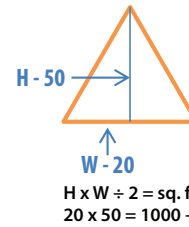
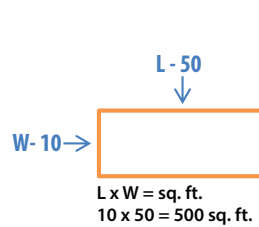
Pre-installation checklist

- Irrigation planning- below ground, automated is recommended
- Inventory the necessary tools
- Rent a roller
- Complete soil and site preparation prior to delivery

Step #1 – Measure the Lawn Area

Sketch and measure the area of the lawn.

Use calculations, below.



Area A is 10 ft. x 10 ft.	= 100 sq. ft.
Area B is 15 ft. x 20 ft.	= 300 sq. ft.
Area C is a triangle 12 ft. x 20 ÷ 2	= 120 sq. ft.
TOTAL SOD NEEDED	=520 sq. ft.

Step #2 – Soil Preparation

Rototill or spade to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Remove sticks, stones, roots, debris, and large clods. Add amendments (enriches soil) and agricultural lime or gypsum (enhances drainage). Rototill or spade amendments into soil. Test the PH. A range of 6-7.5 is recommended.

Step #3 – Grading

Work, level, and smooth the area with a rake. Make sure the grade is 1/2" below driveways, walkways, and borders; and 1" below sprinkler heads. Roll the area with a lawn roller 1/3 full of water. Fill in low areas, and roll again. This important step provides an even, firm surface. **Pre-irrigate the surface the evening before installation.** It is essential that sod is not installed on a dry surface.

Step #4 – Turf Installation

Install your lawn immediately upon delivery. Begin installation along a straight line; a driveway or sidewalk. Butt edges together tightly, avoiding overlap or gaps. Stagger the joints in each row in a brick-like fashion. Use a sharp knife to trim corners, around trees, sprinklers, etc.



Never let newly installed sod dry out. Water lightly as small areas are completed.

Step #5 – Water and Roll

When installation is complete, water the entire lawn for 10 minutes. Using a roller 1/3 full of water, roll the entire area to ensure complete contact with the soil. To prevent indentations or air pockets, avoid repeated walking or kneeling on newly installed sod.

Step #6 – Initial Irrigation

Soak the sod to depth of 6 inches. **Do not let the sod dry out.** New sod and the top soil must be kept evenly moist all day for the first two weeks.



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