WHEN TO WATER

Freshly cut sod contains enough moisture in the leaves, roots, and soil to keep the grass healthy and alive for transport and planting. However, once the sod is laid at the site it will continue to transpire water that will need to be replaced by either rainfall or supplemental irrigation.

WATERING TIP #1

It is essential to begin watering new turfgrass sod immediately upon establishment. This can be done by hand-watering with a water hose and nozzle, hose-end sprinkler, in-ground irrigation system, or any combination thereof. When watering new sod, make sure that the sod and the soil layer immediately beneath the sod is moist to a depth of 1/2 – 1 inch.

WATERING TIP #2

Lifting the corners of random pieces of sod and checking for moisture is a good way to ensure that the sod is wet. A screwdriver, pocket-knife, or other sharp implement is a useful tool to inspect the soil beneath the sod. If the implement easily goes into the soil, then it is likely sufficiently wet.

WATERING TIP #3

Make certain the entire lawn is receiving water. Corners, edges, and areas exposed to full sun are particularly prone to drying out. Also pay particular attention to sod laid adjacent to hardscapes as these areas can dry out sooner than others. Turfgrass leaves that are wilted and/or bluish-gray in color often appear in these areas first and are a sign of drought stress.

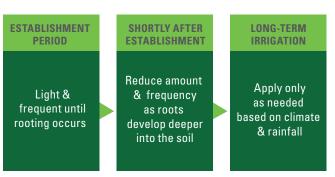
WATERING TIP #4

During the first few days of establishment, it is important to water newly laid sod frequently enough that the sod and top $\frac{1}{2} - 1$ inch of soil immediately beneath the sod remain wet. This may require frequent, light applications of water applied multiple times per day. This is particularly true on hot, arid, and/or windy days during the grow-in period.

WATERING TIP #5

Prevent over-watering by paying attention to runoff on sloped areas or standing water on flat areas. This is important for water conservation but also for plant health. Turfgrass roots need oxygen for respiration, and over-irrigation can slow or prevent new roots from emerging and establishing in the soil.

REPRESENTATIVE IRRIGATION PLAN FOR NEWLY LAID SOD



Irrigation amounts vary by region, climate, season, etc. but a general rule of thumb based on plant evaporation rates is to apply 1 inch of water per week during the growing season. Only apply water when needed and be sure to cut off automatic irrigation systems during periods of rainfall, dormancy, or other times that supplemental irrigation is not necessary.







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TURFGRASS WATERING & CARE FOR NEW SOD

Perennial turfgrasses are some of the most hardy and durable plants often found in urban landscapes. Like any new planting, they require attention and care during installation to ensure successful establishment. This guide contains helpful tips to make sure your newly laid sod remains healthy and ready to enjoy!



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.bos bisl ylwen end hose-end nozzles can all be effective tools for watering properly, in-ground systems, portable hose-end sprinklers, water sod, each with different strengths. When used for newly established sod. There are many different ways to Proper watering techniques are an essential part of caring



IN-GROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

laid sod include: to consider when scheduling watering programs for newly watering schedules during turfgrass establishment. Things to run at specific days and times, allowing for customizable areas. In-ground irrigation systems can also be programmed installation but are a great way to effectively irrigate large In-ground irrigation systems often require professional

- due to reduced losses from evaporation. and allow it to soak into the top $N - \lambda$ qot and solve to the soal Morning and evening are good times to saturate the sod
- of establishment. mid-day irrigation event during the first few days or weeks laid sod to dry out so be sure to schedule at least one Mid-day to early afternoon is the most likely time for newly
- frequency can be reduced. to lift up, then this is an indication that irrigation length and As roots begin to penetrate the soil and the sod is difficult
- areas such as driveways, streets, and sidewalks. and adjust heads to eliminate overspray onto non-turfgrass irrigation coverage is sufficient to water newly laid sod • Pay close attention to corners and edges to make sure that



Hose-End Sprinklers to water newly laid sod include: otherwise be hard to reach. Things to consider when using hand to irrigate small or irregularly shaped areas that would on inexpensive electronic timers, and can even be used by to place in the lawn as the sod requires, can be scheduled water newly laid sod. They can be easily moved from place complexity but their portability makes them a great way to Hose-End Sprinklers range in price, durability, and

- pattern of water. to select one that will deliver a sufficient volume and Output and coverage vary widely by nozzle-type so be sure
- .Ates may be high. particularly for mid-day watering when evapotranspiration evaporative losses and are an important consideration, Hose-End sprinklers with larger droplet sizes will reduce
- laid sod, particularly in larger areas. multiple times per day to adequately reach all of the newly Hose-End sprinklers often need to be moved manually
- timing, frequency, and adjustment. systems also apply to hose-end sprinklers with regard to All of the same guidelines from in-ground irrigation



without producing footprints, tire tracks, or other depressions. surface is firm enough to support foot traffic, mowing, etc. irrigation has been reduced such that the sod and underlying other equipment onto the newly laid sod, it is important that the corners and edges of the new sod. Prior to placing mowers or first few days, which can be observed by gently pulling the Newly laid sod should begin to produce new roots within the

website at www.TheLawnInstitute.org after establishment, please check out The Lawn Institute For more information on how to care for newly laid sod

the soil that encourages deep, healthy roots.

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SNIWOM

turfgrasses provides a balance of oxygen and water in

few days. Deep and infrequent watering of established

times per day during establishment to only once every

applications should gradually be reduced from multiple

As newly laid sod begins to root into the soil, irrigation

pamphlet provided by Turfgrass Producers International.

Lawn Institute's website or in the Turfgrass Fertilization information on turfgrass fertilization can be found on The

establishment. Selecting the appropriate fertilizer and

Newly laid sod can be fertilized immediately prior to

and can be found on The Lawn Institute's website.

Recommended mowing heights vary by turfgrass species

.emit eno yns ts ebsid teel eat he leat any one time. ranges of mowing heights frequently enough to prevent from

be mowed using sharp mower blades within the recommended

can occur. All turfgrasses, including newly laid sod, should

not be prolonged to the point where significant scalping

encouraging lateral growth through tillers, rhizomes, or

To transport of the second of

stolons. Newly laid sod should be mowed once the

underlying surface is firm enough to support it and should

establishment, during establishment, or as needed after

application rate should be based on soil test results. More

POST-INSTALLATION CARE OF NEW SOD

