

Watering Guidelines for New Sod

Newly installed sod has very important **watering needs**. Proper watering immediately after installation is critical for new sod establishment.

- **Watering must begin immediately!** In warm weather (over 75 degrees) newly installed sod could be dead in one hour without water. Apply at least one inch of water so that the soil beneath the sod is wet.
- **FIRST WEEK:** After day one, water each area for about 30 minutes, twice a day for one week.
- **SECOND WEEK:** Once a day for 30 minutes for one week.
- **THIRD WEEK:** Once every other day for 30 minutes for one week.
- **FOURTH WEEK:** Twice a week for 30 minutes for two weeks.
- Turf should not decline in appearance during the root-in period. Negative change in appearance is most likely a result of inadequate watering. Beware of slopes and full sun areas that may need more frequent watering.
- After three weeks of continuously green grass, the turf can be considered fully rooted for the purpose of mowing. Do not scalp with mower! Full root length will not develop for a few months, and new turf is not tolerant of any stress until then.
- During the rest of the growing season most lawns will grow very well with no more than one inch of water per week from either rain or irrigation.

For Sod Laid Dormant (or near dormant)

In our area, sod installed between September 1st and April 15th will not completely root in until the following spring. Watering requirements are different for this period.

- Apply one inch of water immediately after the sod is installed.
- **During the dormant period of unusually warm weather, watering twice per week may be required. Do not allow the sod to dry out completely!**
- When the sod begins to green-up in the spring (usually in March) the sod will require the “After day one” requirement described above.