

THE GREEN THUMBERS - SEEDING & SODDING

The most important difference between seeding and sodding is the time it takes to develop a mature or durable turf area. (Sod is faster.) But both have their advantages and disadvantages.

Sod Advantages	Sod Disadvantages
Instant green	More expensive
Durable within weeks of installation	Not suitable for shady environment
Ideal for use on steep slopes	Considered High-maintenance lawn
Can be installed any time in the growing season	Difficult to develop a strong, deep root system

Seed Advantages	Seed Disadvantages
Relatively inexpensive	Requires 6-12 weeks to establish
Several seed mixes available for unique conditions, including shade	Washes out on slopes
Seed mixes available for low-maintenance lawns	Short window of the season to apply
Develops a strong, deep root system	

Soil Preparation:

The soil preparation for sodding or seeding a lawn is relatively the same>

Rich Soil	Heavy Sand or Clay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Till the top 2-3 inches of soil. Even the grade with a rake and remove clumps of soil. Loose soil might need to be rolled. Apply Starter Fertilizer at ½ the recommended rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add organic mater, compost, peat moss, or manure, 1-2 inches. Add Gypsum; 40lbs/1000 sq ft. Till the soil amendments into the top 6" of existing soil. Even the grade with a rake and remove clumps of soil. Use a soil roller, which can be rented from most hardware stores. Apply Starter Fertilizer.

Steps to Sodding a Lawn:

1. Purchase the freshest sod possible. It should have been cut no more than 24 hours prior to delivery
2. The sod should be laid as soon as possible, within a day of delivery.
3. Lay the sod on slightly moist soil, stagger the joints much like brick laying.
4. If sodding slopes, lay the sod across the slope using a stake to keep in place if needed.
5. Fill any cracks with soil to help to keep the edges from drying out.
6. Use a roller about 1/3 full of water to make sure you have good ground-to-soil contact.
7. Apply Starter Fertilizer at ½ the recommended rate.
8. Regular watering is necessary until the root system has become established. For the initial watering, ½" of water at each watering will soak the sod adequately. In later weeks, as the frequency decreases, 1" should be applied at each watering. To determine how long to run the sprinkler, use a small can with low sides placed in the sod to measure the water. Follow the appropriate watering schedule depending on time of year.

Watering guide for first 4 weeks of sod care if installed with temperatures ABOVE 80 degrees

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	2 times	2 times	2 times	Once	Once	Once	Once
Week 2	Once	Once	Once	Once	Once	Once	
Week 3		Once	Mow	Once			Once
Week 4	Once		Once		Once	Mow	Once

Watering guide for first 4 weeks of sod care if installed with temperatures BELOW 80 degrees

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	2 times	2 times	Once	Once	Once	Once	
Week 2	Once		Once		Once		Once
Week 3		Once	Mow		Once		Once
Week 4	Once				Once		

Steps to seeding a lawn:

1. The best time to seed in our area is late summer (August 15- September15). The second best time to seed in our area is early Spring (April 15- May 15).
2. Make sure the soil is moist to a depth of 4-6 inches.
3. Spread seed in two steps, each at half the rate, in perpendicular directions across the area. (Our Representatives can help you select the best kind for your lawn area)
4. Follow up with a light raking, allowing 10- 15% of the seed to show.
5. On steep slopes, spread a straw blanket over the area to reduce seed and soil erosion.
6. Regular watering is necessary until the root system had become established.
 - Water only as needed to maintain moist but not soggy soil.
 - During warm, sunny days, the soil may require water twice per day.
 - Quit watering if puddles develop.
 - Gradually taper the watering as the plants grow larger. It usually take 6- 12 weeks for lawn seeds to establish. It take nearly a full season for the new lawn to be mature and durable.
7. Keep kids and pets off the area until after the first mowing.
8. Begin mowing after the grass has grown 3 inches.

Steps for seeding an existing Lawn:

1. Loosen the surface of the soil as much as you can without damaging existing grass.
2. Spread the seed over the soil.
3. Spread ¼ inch of peat moss over the seed.
4. Water the soil when the peat moss is dry.