



Landscape maintenance

SOD

WATERING

Watering is the single most important step in successfully establishing a new lawn.

Your sod will be watered during the installation period, but subsequent watering is equally important. In the first 2-3 weeks after installation, the bottom of your sod should never be dry. You can lift a corner up in different areas and check this.

Insufficient watering can cause sod burn and dead spots, while overwatering can delay root establishment, or cause mushrooms and other disease. Weather conditions, as well as shade and sun exposure, will have a large impact on how much you need to water, however, the following schedule can be used as a guide:

- A good soak on the first day will moisten both the sod and topsoil.
- Light watering (30-45 minutes of sprinkler time) 1-3 times per day in the first 2 weeks, or until the roots are established, will prevent your sod from dehydrating. Leaving a sprinkler on overnight, or while at work during the day, will result in overwatering and delay the deepening of roots.
- When roots have established, and you have mowed your lawn for the first time, watering once every 1-2 days, depending on weather conditions, will be adequate. Watering in the morning is ideal, but if not possible, early afternoon is better than late evening.
- Space out your watering days after the first month. There may be areas that will need extra watering over the entire life of your lawn due to sun exposure, reflected heat from house siding, a fence, or even lot grading and runoff differences.

MAINTENANCE

Ideally, you should delay the first mowing until your sod is rooted in, which can take 10-21 days after installation. Installations that take place from May to June will root more quickly than those that take place late in the season, and installations that take place from September to October should not be expected to establish roots until the following spring. To check if your sod has rooted in, gently pull on a few sections and see how tightly they have adhered to the topsoil.

Mowing the grass too short will cause scalping, and damage your new lawn, especially during the initial establishment period. It is best to maintain a lawn between 30-60 mm or 1.25-2.5". Longer cuts will be more resistant to moisture loss. Adjust how often you mow according to how fast your grass grows.

Spot treat weeds with Killex, or another broad leaf herbicide, or pull them out manually. Do not use Roundup.

Fertilizing is optional and can be used to enhance both the color and thickness of your lawn. Use a spring fertilizer (20-8-8) for slow growth, and a fall fertilizer (13-25-12) to stimulate root growth later in the season. Fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks, April through September, for best results.

TREES

WATERING

Water trees daily for the first week, then twice weekly for the next month. Use 1.5-3 gallons of water per watering, depending on the size of your tree. Larger trees will require more water, and smaller trees will require less water. Watering in the evening is best, as less of the water will evaporate. Do not rely on the runoff from your lawn, as it will not provide a sufficient source of hydration for your tree.

On average, a tree will take two years to establish itself. Watering should be maintained on a weekly, or twice weekly basis, until the end of the summer season following the year of installation.

It is important to note that trees, especially those that are coniferous, also require water over the winter. A lengthy watering after the first winter freeze occurs will help protect your trees over the entire winter.

MAINTENANCE

Keep mulch away from the base of tree trunks so that water and sunlight can penetrate. Prune or remove dead tree branches as needed. Manually weed tree beds and remove suckers every 2 weeks.

Contact an arborist for structural pruning and disease removal.

Regularly check tree stakes and ties for tension and pressure. Remove them 2 years after installation.

SHRUBS

WATERING

New shrub installations in mulch beds should be watered daily for the first week, and twice weekly for the duration of the summer. Coniferous shrubs will benefit from additional late season watering.

MAINTENANCE

Mulch is installed on bare dirt with no landscape fabric, and top ups are required to maintain a proper 4-6" layer in shrub beds. Mulch loss in the first year will be significantly more than in subsequent years.

Manually weed shrub beds every 2 weeks and keep mulch away from shrub bases.

Fertilize in the spring, mid-summer, and fall, with readily available products specific to each season.