

## Success With Sod

Establishing a lawn with sod can be done anytime the ground can be worked. For best results sod should be installed as soon as possible after purchase. If sod must be stored for any length of time it should be laid out in a shady area and watered daily.

Success with installing and growing sod is easy when you follow these basic tips:

1. Remove or kill any grass or weeds growing in the area where you wish to install sod by spraying the area with Roundup a week prior to installing your sod or remove them with a hoe or shovel.
2. Prepare the soil (ground), by roto-tilling or loosening it with a shovel or spade to a depth of 2 to 3 inches. If installing in clay soils, mix in some organic matter like compost, sphagnum peat or good top soil. **Note:** This step is important for the ease of root establishment of your new sod. Failure to do so can result in poor results.
3. Remove rocks, dirt clods, and debris while raking the area smooth and level.
4. Lay sod, staggering the seams (joints) so they don't line up. Lightly tamp sod in with your feet or using a hand pulled roller causing good sod/soil contact.
5. **Water** generously (soaking) daily until sod is established. Avoid foot traffic on this area when the ground is soft after watering. Depending on weather conditions this can be anywhere from 2 to 3 weeks in spring. Don't be fooled into thinking a light rain shower is adequate watering. After the sod is established one inch of water will be required each week for the first season.

Enjoy your new carpet of lush lawn!

**Note: We cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping sod watered until well established. Water.....Water..... Water!**

# Successfully Establishing A Lawn From Seed

It is easy to establish turf from seed when a few basic steps are followed. Growing grass is like baking, follow the recipe and the results are very rewarding. Dormant seeding can be done during the winter months; the following outline is for spring or fall seeding.

1. Follow steps 1 through 3 on the opposite side of this page.
2. Apply lawn starter fertilizer at the recommended rate on the bag and rake in.
3. Apply grass seed evenly at the recommended rate for the type of seed you are planting.
4. Rake seed in lightly allowing good seed/soil contact.
5. Cover with 1/8 inch of Canadian peat moss or straw. Canadian peat moss is nice because it isn't necessary to rake it up later and it holds moisture nicely. Straw should be used very sparingly to avoid smothering the sprouting seed and is necessary to remove after the grass is growing.
6. **Water**.....water.....water. Soil surface must be kept moist to get the best germination and until seedlings are established.
7. As soon as the grass is about 3" tall mowing with a sharp blade should begin.

Note: The best time to sow grass seed in the Miami Valley is Early Fall or Early Spring. However, with a diligent watering schedule seeding can be done at anytime.

Enjoy!