

Planting & Establishing

Do you want to know how to install your grass or why your new grass doesn't grow well? Here is an explanation of the full procedure of installation and establishment for each type of grass. Follow these instructions and you will have a beautiful new lawn!

Preparation – All types of grass

- 1. Apply Urea or Ammonia sulfate 5 lb. per 1,000 SF and water well, wait 1-2 weeks**
 - Stimulate dormant weed seeds and nut grass corms to germinate.
 - Get weeds growing well so they are easier to be killed.
 - Provide nutrition for future lawn
- 2. Spray glyphosate herbicide (ex: Roundup, Ranger Pro, etc.) according to the type of weeds you have. Always follow the label on the product for usage rates.**
 - Will be absorbed into weed and go down into roots in 4 days.
 - Repeat every 10 days as necessary before planting.
- 3. Loosen surface of soil (rototill if necessary) and add amendments (manure, sand, compost, etc.), 10-30-10 fertilizer 20 lb. per 1,000SF if necessary.**
 - Soil surface must be soft for turfgrass roots to penetrate after planting. If soil is heavily compacted, it should be loosened for better drainage and aeration.

Sod – Installation steps

- 1. Install the sod by staggering the alternating rows to prevent wash out and to help the seams to fill in quicker.**
 - Make sure the seams are connected. Gaps will allow air to get in between the strips and drying the edges out.
 - On slope area, place the sod horizontally along the slope to prevent wash outs. Also, if it is really steep, you may need to stake each side of the sod pieces to the ground. Once the roots grow in, you can remove the stakes.
 - After installation, water the lawn until the soil is soft enough for you to press your finger into the earth.
- 2. Water the sod twice a day (or more during long dry spells) for 2 weeks while it is rooting.**
- 3. When the sod is well rooted into the existing soil, cut back watering to once a day, but increase time slightly.**
 - Don't waste water; don't encourage fungal root-rot diseases.
 - Encourage deeper rooting of turf.
- 4. Avoid mowing the lawn until the roots are established.**
 - To be safe, though, the first time you cut the lawn, keep the mower blade a little higher than normal. Mow weekly at correct height after turf is firmly rooted in soil (takes 3-4 weeks)

5. About 5 weeks after installation, apply a lawn type fertilizer (16-4-4 etc.) Be sure fertilizer is watered in.

- To stimulate growth, quick spreading, and filling in of lawn.

Seed – Installation Steps

1. Spread the seed over the soil, using either a seed spreader or sprinkling with your hand and then gently rake the seed into the soil. Ideally, the seed should be about 1/4 inch below the surface.

2. Tamp or press the soil and seed together

3. Water very lightly (5-10 minutes) 3-4 times a day for 2-3 weeks until the grass begins to sprout.

- Stay off the lawn during germinating period. Once seed has sprouted, reduce water gradually.

4. When the grass is over 3 inches tall, mow for the first time with keeping the mower blade a little higher than normal.

- Don't take off more than 1/3 of the grass leaf

Stolons/Plugs - Installation Steps

1. Plant turfgrass pieces in pukas or furrows about 12” apart. Keep moist, then cover roots and stems (not leaves) with clean compost or “Big R”.

- Prevent newly planted turfgrass from drying out.

2. Roll or press planted turfgrass into ground

- To make roots, turfgrass needs good contact with soil.

3. Water lightly (5-10 minutes) twice a day for 2-3 weeks, early morning and before lunch are best times.

- Keep turfgrass from drying out while roots get established. Nighttime watering encourages root-rotting fungal organisms.

4. Paint any weeds or nut grass with full-strength glyphosate (plus blue dye); one small swipe per plant, anywhere on the plant. Repeat at approximately 3-week intervals.

- Kill weeds before they can go to seed and increase.

5. When planted turfgrass starts to spread, cut back watering to once a day, but increase time slightly.

- Don't waste water; don't encourage fungal root-rot diseases.
- -Encourage deeper rooting of turf.

6. Apply lawn type fertilizer (16-4-4 etc.) approximately once a month

- To stimulate growth, quick spreading, and filling in of lawn.
- Stimulate spreading and growth of lawn

After Lawn Establishes – All types of grass

1. After lawn fills in:

- Fertilize occasionally and lightly, cut back watering frequency as much as possible.
- Increase watering time slightly.
- If surface is uneven, top dress with about ½" of sand.
- Once per year, de-thatch lawn, remove old thatch (accumulated stems) with verticutter machine
- Minimize turfgrass growth to reduce mowing; discourage thatch buildup, diseases and pests.
- Makes reduce unnecessary water and fertilizer use.

2. As needed:

- Top dress lightly with sand.
- If soil becomes compacted, aerate with aerating machine or pitchfork, fill holes with sand/compost mix.