



General Guidelines for Sod Installations

The difference between ordinary results and extraordinary results from your installation is that little extra effort you put into it! Much of that little extra is what you do before you get the sod!

- Select the right grass for your application—Factor in things such as traffic, use, shade, water availability(drought tolerance), soil type, cold hardiness needs, maintenance requirements vs. ability or budget to do, etc. Refer to the link for Choosing the Warm Season Turfgrass for you Application.
- Get your site prepared before you take delivery of your sod!—Get a soil test done so that you know for sure if lime is needed or if there are any nutrient deficiencies. It is much easier to adjust the soil PH before the sod is installed than afterwards. Many areas of new development especially near the coast of South Carolina and Georgia require substantial lime applications to adjust the soil PH to an optimal range. It is extremely difficult to take care of this problem after the sod is installed as it needs to be worked into the soil. There are some areas where the soil PH tends to be high and this condition may require some remedial action to the soil and affect the selection of a particular cultivar of turfgrass. Having a nematode test done is also helpful with soil preparation and turf grass variety selection.
- Inspect your site for the presence of Mole Crickets, Grubs, or any other pest that may cause a problem with your new installation and treat if necessary. As a general rule we recommend the application of Bayer Advance Season Long Grub Control on new installations and the continued use of this product in accordance with the label on the bag as a part of ongoing lawn maintenance.
- Because newly installed sod is an attractive host to many insect pest and pathogens, Green Acres Turf Farm recommends the application of a broad spectrum insecticide and a systemic preventative fungicide immediately after installation. It is then very important to establish a regular scheduled



maintenance program for insects, disease, and fertilization as it is important to note that the improper use of fertilizer can adversely affect insect and disease pressure. It is highly recommended to contract with a licensed, insured and reputable lawn care company to handle your fertilizer and chemical applications.

- Management of weeds in warm season turf grass is very confusing and cultivar dependent. Please refer to the link on the website for more specific information. **It is very important to note the difference in recommendations for new installed sod as opposed to an established lawn. Also, the application rate and timing of any herbicide is very critical as a mistake can severely injure you lawn or possibly kill it. A herbicide that can be used on one type of turf may kill another type of turf. Always read and follow the label!**
- Fertilization of Turf is cultivar and location specific. Green Acres Turf recommends using an organic low nitrogen starter fertilizer like Mil-Organite(6-2-0). There are some other good starters available from Lesco at www.lesco.com and other lawn and garden centers. The most important thing is to not use a high nitrogen starter fertilizer as this can severely burn the grass and set it up for major disease problems. The use of Iron as a supplement is beneficial in giving lawns a more green appearance. For fertilizer recommendations after establishment refer to the website resources page and to the links by some of the varieties of grass on the products page.
- The most important thing to remember is to install sod on well prepared soil, use proper watering practices and to always read and follow the label on any product applied to your lawn. By following these general practices before, during and after installing your new lawn, you will give yourself the opportunity enjoy an **extraordinary** lawn for many years.