



Theisen Sprinkler Company, Inc.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF NEW SOD:

A successful and healthy lawn begins with adequate and effective ground preparation. Amending the soil prior to sod installation will ensure (along with adequate and properly applied water application) that your new grass will thrive in our arid climate. We recommend the application of 3-5 yards (this is approximately 2" deep) of properly aged compost for each 1,000 square feet of turf area to your existing soil and rotor tilling of the compost to a depth of at least 4-6 inches. (Deeper tilling would be preferred but is not always practical.) The tilled ground should then be fine graded to restore the drainage patterns established by your builder. The extra time spent here will be rewarded by the smooth appearance of your sod after it is installed. Remember, any "hills and valleys" that may be present will be much more noticeable after the sod is installed.

New sod should be watered **IMMEDIATELY** after installation to the point of saturation. After saturation of the new turf, short, frequent watering is required to keep the top of the sod moist. By frequent, we mean 2-3 times per day for each irrigation zone with each application being controlled to only apply enough water to maintain the soil moisture. There is no need to water to the point of run off. This run off is a waste of our precious resource and does damage to our environment. By keeping the sod properly watered, you will allow the roots to efficiently grow down into the sod bed. It is strongly recommended to limit foot traffic on the newly installed turf area because the footprints created by this will detract from the beauty of your final landscape product. This type of sod damage is not easily repaired.

If the sod is not watered properly, it will discolor and the roots will not grow. Initial signs of this sod stress will be a bluish grey discoloring of the grass blades. The blades of the grass will then turn brown and if proper watering of the turf is not re-established, the sod will permanently shrink and die.

With proper watering, you can expect the sod to begin rooting within one week and within two weeks the sod will be rooted enough to taper back the watering. The sod will soon be rooted and when you are unable to pick it up off the ground it is ready to be mowed. Do not water 24-36 hours prior to your first mowing. (Make sure you give the turf area enough time to dry up before you mow for first time because the imprints created by walking on excessively wet soil will again be permanent.)

Water immediately after mowing and continue daily watering for the next week. After the second mowing, watering can be reduced to once every other day or your designated watering schedule. In the long term, it is best to water your sod heavily to a depth of 8-12". This stimulates deep root growth and will make your lawn less prone to stress during excessively hot weather and year round drought conditions. Frequent light sprinklings also germinate weed seeds and annual grasses (water grass, etc). Winter watering should be done every 3-4 weeks depending on weather. If your sod is installed in the fall, it should be watered at least once every two weeks.

Fertilization can be accomplished with a commercial grade fertilizer equivalent to 20-10-5, or 20-20-10 (ask your local retailer). The numbers represent nitrogen, phosphate, and potash. Nitrogen is the primary chemical that is responsible for giving the sod its deep green color. Fertilization should occur once every 9-12 weeks for best results.

When regular mowing of your grass is needed, it should be cut often enough so that clippings do not exceed 1/2". We recommend cutting your grass to the height of 2". Be sure your mower blades are kept sharp. Dull mower blades tear and bruise the grass blades, leaving the lawn's appearance scorched the day after mowing.