

## **IMPORTANT**

### **Install the Sod Immediately and Begin Watering! Do Not Wait Until the Next Day.**

Sod is perishable and must not be allowed to remain on the pallet. Proper watering is essential to the establishment of your new sod. During the first week, keep the sod and soil beneath completely soaked—it is almost impossible to overwater during this period. As a general guide, water 3 times a day during this critical first week. Watering times should be approximately 10-15 minutes. These numbers may need to be increased in the inland valleys during very hot weather\*. If water starts to puddle, cut back a bit on watering time. During the second week, reduce watering to 1-2 times per day, gradually allowing the soil to firm. This will make it possible for you to mow for the first time toward the end of week two. After three weeks, your sod should be established and you may cut back to a normal watering routine for your location.

\*Frequency and length of waterings will depend on how warm, how windy, and how rapidly the lawn dries out following each watering. Remember the goal during week one is to keep the sod and the soil beneath moist all of the time.

#### **Helpful Hints on Installation**

The sod you have received from McFall Sod Farm is the finest you can possibly purchase. It has been delivered within hours of harvesting in its full freshness and vigor, free of weeds, disease and insect infestation. But like any living plant that has been cut out of the ground, put on a truck, driven down a freeway—and replanted at your location, it must now devote its energies to reestablishing itself with new root growth. It needs water to do this—please reread the watering instructions above.

- Apply a pre-plant fertilizer to the ground before laying the sod.
- Make sure that your sprinkler system gives you head-to-head coverage so water application is uniform. This is critical as almost all sod failures are due to improper coverage of the irrigation system.
- Butt edges and ends to fit tightly against each other. This prevents drying out of the seams. Stagger strips as though laying bricks.
- Where needed, trim sod with a sharp knife—a serrated steak knife works great.
- Water as you go. After you have laid down 200 square feet, apply a fine mist spray with a garden hose and thoroughly soak the sod.
- We cannot stress enough the importance of watering as soon after laying as possible.

#### **After Laying the Sod**

- We cannot stress the proper watering program too much.
- Stay off your new sod for at least 14 days.
- Mow after two weeks with your mower set at the highest cutting height to reduce scalping. Never mow off more than 1/3 the height of the grass.
- Fertilize your new sod 3 weeks after the installation and every six weeks thereafter.
- Control your pets. Urine spots and "foot printing" on soft, soggy sod may cause permanent problems.

#### **Troubleshooting Hints**

**Bluish grey areas appearing in the lawn** - These are spots which have wilted because they are not getting as much water as the adjacent areas. Soak with a garden hose until you can adjust your sprinkler system for better coverage (adding a head, etc.)

**Sod not rooting** - Within 10 days your sod should have many roots emerging. If not, check your watering. NOTE: Sod in shade will root very slowly, if at all. Most turfgrass sods require 4 to 5 hours of full sun or an entire day of filtered light to successfully root and become established. Sodding in shady areas is not recommended.

**Brown Spots** - These can be caused by pets, dry spots, areas that are not rooting or possibly fungus. About 95% of the time, when you see a brown spot it is due to lack of water. Check by pushing a screw driver into the ground where the sod is green and then into the brown spot. If it is harder to push into the brown spot, you will know it is simply dry.

**Mushrooms** - Do not worry about these. When you cut back on the watering, they will go away.

