

Piala's Lawn Care Recommendations | Newly Installed Sod

WATERING NEW SOD

In order to keep the lawn looking its best, it is critical that it be kept moist until substantial rooting has occurred. This requires daily watering, and is best achieved with sprinklers. Initially, a sprinkler turned on at full throttle for approximately 20 – 30 minutes in each location is adequate. The idea is to keep the roots of the sod immediately below it moist (so the ground is wet to the touch when you pull back the sod and place your palm on the ground). Follow these instructions if rainfall does not occur:

- Water thoroughly twice (or more) per day for the first 6 weeks.
- Water thoroughly once per day for the following 3 weeks.
- For the remainder of the first season, water as necessary when dry.
- For sod installed while dormant (mid-November or later), these instructions should be implemented the following spring after the snow melts.

FERTILIZING NEW SOD

Newly installed sod will require some specific fertilizing for the first year. With all lawn fertilizers, the ratio of N-P-K (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium) is more important than the specific numbers, which can vary by brand. Depending on when your sod was installed, follow these instructions for fertilizing new sod:

Application 1 – Starter Fertilizer

Starter Fertilizer (9-13-7 or similar) applied at time of lawn installation. Phosphorous, the middle number, is very important for new sod.

Application 2 – Apply 4 weeks after installation

Starter Fertilizer (9-13-7 or similar)

Application 3 – Apply 4-6 weeks after last Starter Fertilizer (skip if late summer installation)

Summer Fertilizer (26-0-4 or similar)

Application 4 – Apply 6 weeks after last Summer Fertilizer (skip if late summer installation)

Summer Fertilizer (24-0-4 or similar) with broadleaf weed control

Application 5 – November

Fall Fertilizer/Winterizer (25-0-6 or similar)

If you have any questions regarding your fertilizing schedule, please contact us at any time.

MOWING NEW SOD

Mow sod as soon as it needs it, or has reached 3" in height (minimum 3 weeks old). Keeping the lawn at this height will promote stronger root development, prevent weeds from germinating, and require less watering in the hot summer months. When mowing, be sure to use a push mower on new sod for the first 4-6 weeks, or until the sod has rooted.