

Sodding Your Lawn

The advantages of sodding your lawn far outweigh seeding if you want something quick and easy. The advantages of using quality sod include:

- * Immediate erosion control
- * An instant green surface with no dust or mud
- * Reduced probability of failing than new seeding
- * Freedom from weeds
- * Quick use capability - within 2 to 3 weeks

A disadvantage of sod is you may have less of a selection of shade tolerant grasses.

The success of sod depends on the proper preparation of the soil which will ensure healthier turf for years to come.

First, remove the old lawn and/or weeds, if any exist. You can dig them out with a flat-bladed shovel. Then break up the compacted soil. A rototiller is recommended for large areas (these can be rented from most equipment rental companies and some hardware stores). Spread a starter fertilizer and a soil conditioner, such as Bumper Crop, Leaf Gro, or compost, over the loosened soil. Work the starter fertilizer and soil conditioner into the soil. Again, a rototiller is recommended for large areas.

Rake the soil to begin to level it out, removing any rocks or debris. You have to add topsoil to fill in low spots. Make sure that the grading allows water to flow away from your house. Now, with a water-filled lawn roller, roll the soil to level it. Lawn rollers can also be rented from most equipment rental companies and some hardware stores.

Start laying your sod on slightly moistened soil. For the first row, begin on the outer perimeter of the area to be sodded. Unroll the sod on the far left-hand side, then another on the far right-hand side. Work your way in towards the center with subsequent strips. You may have to piece rolls to fit the area. Do not overlap pieces. For the strips of sod in the adjacent row, make sure you stagger the ends of the sod rolls, so that the seams do not line up - similar to a brickwork pattern. If a strip appears low, shim it up with topsoil to bring it up to the proper level.

When you've finished laying the sod, roll it with the water-filled lawn roller. Push it over the sod to press it down firmly against the soil. This removes air pockets and promotes good contact with the soil. For a couple of weeks after laying sod, remember to water faithfully every day.

Johnson's carries a superior quality tall fescue sod and the smaller implements you need to successfully install a beautiful lawn.

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