



NEW SOD CARE GUIDE: Kentucky Blue Rye Grass

PREPARE THE SOIL

Clear the area:

Remove all debris, weeds, and old grass. You can use a shovel, hoe, or a weed killer to clear the area.

Loosen the soil:

Use a rake or a garden tiller to break up the top layer of soil. This will help the sod roots establish themselves. Ideally, you should till to a depth of about 2–3 inches.

Add soil amendments (if necessary):

If the soil is lacking in nutrients or has poor structure, you might want to add organic matter like compost top soil mix to improve soil quality.

Level the soil:

Use a rake to level the soil, and create a smooth surface, removing any bumps or low spots.

Moisten the soil:

Water the area lightly before laying the sod. The soil should be moist, but not soggy

SOD MUST BE INSTALLED/LAID THE SAME DAY IT IS DELIVERED OR PICKED UP.

IF LEFT ROLLED UP ON PALLET, IT WILL BEGIN TO RAPIDLY YELLOW & DETERIORATE IN QUALITY.

DAY 1

•After laying the sod, adequate water must be applied to penetrate the sod & saturate the soil 2 inches. below the surface.

(Ensure NO pooling/standing water)

•For large areas, ensure water is applied within one hour of laying. Continue watering as laying the sod progresses.



- Use a rain gauge or equal size cups to measure amount of water that you apply
- Avoid watering in the heat of the day.**



LAY THE SOD

Start along a straight edge:

Begin laying the sod along a sidewalk, driveway, or a fence to maintain straight lines. If you're working on a large area, you can start in the back and work your way to the front.

Stagger the seams:

Lay the sod pieces in a brick-like pattern, so the seams of the sod pieces don't line up. This helps create a more natural look and prevents water from running off the edges.

Fit the pieces together:

Press the edges of the sod pieces tightly together to avoid gaps. If there are any gaps, the pieces may dry out and prevent proper root growth.

Cut pieces as needed:

If you need to cut the sod to fit around corners or edges, use a sharp knife, or a sod cutter.

DAYS 2 - 14

Spring & Fall (Temperatures Below 85°F):

•Watering Frequency: Water once a day for at least 14 days to keep sod and soil moist.

Summer (Temperatures Above 85°F):

•Watering Frequency: Water twice daily (morning and evening) for at least 14 days.

•Water 3 Inches total per week

•**Important Note:** Do not overwater. Ensure there is no standing water and the soil below the sod remains moist to promote rooting.

•**Daily Check:** Always ensure that the water is soaking into the soil below the sod, promoting proper root growth.

•**Avoid Foot Traffic:** Stay off the sod for the first 14 days to help the roots establish properly.

•After 14 days, your sod should be rooted!

TIPS FOR A BEAUTIFUL LAWN

DAYS 14 - 30

-Begin to cut back on watering time after day 14 to promote deep root growth.

Watering Frequency:

Water once per day, 4 times a week.

- **Spring/Fall (Temperatures below 85°F):**
Aim for 2 inches of water per week.
- **Summer (Temperatures above 85°F):**
Aim for 3 inches of water per week.



- **Never** water established sod more frequently than 3 times per week. It is necessary to have a "Dry Day" interval between each watering cycle.

- Closely check the color & condition of the sod during transition.

- Adjust watering according to soil type; sandy or rocky soil may require longer period of watering time.

WATERING SCHEDULE GOAL AFTER 1 MONTH

Watering Frequency:

Water once per day, 3 times a week.

- **Spring/Fall (Temperatures below 85°F):**
Aim for 2 inches of water per week.
- **Summer (Temperatures above 85°F):**
Aim for 3 inches of water per week.

FERTILIZER



4-6 weeks after laying sod, apply 5-10 lbs. of 15-15-15 fertilizer per 1,000 sq. ft., three times a year: This should be done once in **May-June**, once in **mid-August**, and once in **early October**.

- Water immediately following application
- **Never** apply fertilizer when temperatures are above 85°F.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Place rain gauges or small cups around your yard to see how much water you're applying.

- To check the soil moisture, try pushing a screwdriver into the soil. It should go 5-8 inches deep. Check in different spots, and adjust watering based on how dry it is.

- Water deeply to help grass roots grow strong, especially during hot weather.

- Wait 2-3 weeks after planting sod before mowing.

- For the first 2 mowings, set the mower higher than usual to avoid damaging the new grass.

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