

The Growing Scene, Inc

**Nursery-Garden Center-Landscaping
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How to Install Sod

Sod comes in rolls that are 6 feet long by 18 inches wide = 1 square yard. It is cut with 1/2 inch of topsoil and each roll weighs between 30 and 50 pounds. To determine how much sod you need, measure the area of your planned lawn. Multiply the length (ft.) by the width (ft.) and divide by 9 to find the number of square yards you need.

The best time to lay sod is between April 1 and June 30 or August 1 and November 30. Before you get the sod, have all the preparatory work completed, because sod should be planted immediately when you get it. Prepare the soil by rototilling it to a depth of 4-8". Amend soil as needed with lime, peat, or compost. As a standard procedure, it is good to incorporate a starter fertilizer 10-10-10 at a rate of 10 pounds per 1000 square feet into the top 3-4" of soil before sodding. Then rake and smooth the soil, eliminating any rocks, large clods or debris. Soil should slope away from foundations and should be level with sidewalks or driveways. Sprinkle the prepared soil to settle it and provide a moist base for the sod.

Begin installing sod along a long, straight edge such as a driveway or sidewalk. Lay the pieces of sod like bricks, staggering the end lines. Push edges together, making sure there are no gaps or overlapping areas. Use a large, sharp knife to make any necessary cuts, but avoid leaving small strips at the outer edge. On slopes, lay the sod across (perpendicular to) the slope. Avoid standing or kneeling on the sod while it is being installed or just after watering because this may cause indentations or air pockets. Begin watering the sod within half an hour after it is laid.

Thoroughly soak the new sod after planting, and continue watering it daily so it stays moist, for 2 weeks. Continue to give it 1 inch of water (or rainfall) per week for several weeks then water as needed for normal maintenance. Keep foot traffic off the new lawn for 3 weeks until sod is knitted down. Wait two weeks before mowing, and never mow off more than 1/3 of grass height .