



# Sod Installation Made Easy!

## 5 Steps

1. Soil Preparation
2. Install Sprinklers
3. Fine Grade
4. Install sod
5. Lawn Care

**PERISHABLE**  
Lay Within 24 Hours

### Plan Your Yard

Make a landscape plan taking into consideration rock, mulch, flower beds, trees, hardscapes and fences. Plan your work so you can access sod areas easily leaving fence panels out and gates open. Paths through beds and rock areas can be completed and filled in after sod is installed. Our forklifts need 8' access for placing pallets of sod in your yard.

### Soil Preparation:

Clear areas to be sodded of rock, concrete and debris. Spray with RoundUp® or a glyphosate product to kill any undesirable weeds or grasses and let sit 1 week. Repeat if necessary, then remove weeds by mowing, raking or scraping. Fill in any major depressions and rough grade for desired drainage.

- Spread 3 to 6 yards of compost per 1,000 square feet of yard.
- If possible, rip or dig area 7" to 10" deep to break up ground.
- Till area 4" to 6" deep.
- Roll, wheel pack, or water area to firm up tilled ground. Rain and snow fall will naturally settle tilled ground.
- Good soil prep can help your yard use 30% less water.

### Install Sprinkler System

A properly designed sprinkler system will conserve water, save time and money in the long run and add value to your home. Here are the benefits:

- Apply water in a uniform, efficient manner
- Allows you to water in the late evening, night and early morning when there is less evaporation and the water can soak in.
- Water in multi cycles to prevent run-off and encourage deep rooting.
- Water when you are not at home.

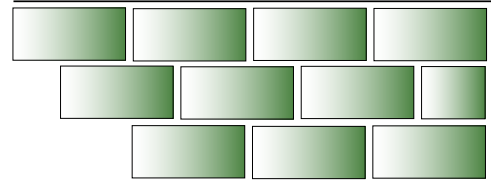
### Fine Grade

Fine grade the lawn area after sprinkler system is installed with a landscape rake. Break up clods to less than 3/4" and remove any large rocks. Soil should be 1" below patios, sidewalks, driveways and edging. Fine graded area should be smooth and clump free. Sod will follow the contour of the ground and it is very difficult to adjust grade after the sod is installed.

### Sod Installation

- Apply Green Valley Turf Co. 20-20-10 + Iron fertilizer to the bare ground before installing sod.
- Start installing first line of sod slabs following a sidewalk, fence or edging to keep row straight and minimize cutting. Cut the first slab of the next line in half so you can stagger the rows like brick work. If you are installing sod on a hill, start at the bottom. This makes it easier to pull the sod into place and get a tight fit. If the hill is steep, anchor the sod in place with wooden stakes.
- Pull slabs tightly together making sure ends and edges are butted together tightly. Open joints let air get to the roots along the edges causing them to dry out and wilt. Also, DO NOT OVERLAP as the same results will occur. Use a knife to cut sod around various obstacles such as beds and sidewalks. Fill in any small voids with

pieces cut to fit the area. If you are working in hot weather, as soon as you have finished an area large enough to water, set a sprinkler and let it run while you are installing the next area. All sodded areas must be adequately watered as soon as possible. The dry climate of the front range can dry out new sod quickly.



Stagger Rows of Sod Like Brick Work

- Rolling the yard is not necessary but will help soil to sod contact. It will also smooth out minor imperfections of the grade if rolled when the ground below the sod is a little squishy and sod has been watered. Roll with the longest seams. This can be repeated a week or two later for ultra smooth turf areas.

### New Sod Watering

The key to establishing new sod is to keep it properly watered for the first month. Immediately after installing sod, water thoroughly making it spongy to the step. The new sod should be kept thoroughly wet to a depth of 4" to 6" and watered 3 to 5 times a day during the first 7 to 14 days depending on season. Lift a corner of the sod to determine the depth of moisture. The first week, it is very important to keep the new sod damp. During this time stay off the sod so it can take root and you do not sink in and leave depressions from your foot steps. During hot weather, sprinklers should run several times a day so the new sod never dries out. If allowed to dry out the sod will shrink, brown and can die. The roots of your new sod will penetrate the soil faster and root down sooner if properly watered. At the end of week 2, dry up the yard enough so you can mow.

The following 2 weeks are used to transition from frequent daily waterings to fewer watering cycles per day and increase the number of days between waterings. During week 3, start reducing watering to 1-3 times per day and skip a day between watering if new sod is not drying out. By week 4, water 1-2 times every other day. After week 4, your new yard should be ready to go 2-3 days between watering. Water your lawn in the evening, night and early morning when less evaporation occurs. To reduce run-off on hills and promote deep root growth, reduce watering times in half. One hour later, run the irrigation cycle again and apply the rest of the water. This allows the water to soak into heavy soils.

### First Mowing

Your new lawn should be mowed at the end of week 2. If your new lawn reaches over 3 1/2", mow off a third of the length even if it has not been two weeks. Do not cut shorter than 2" for the first few mowings. Exercise caution the first time you mow so you do not damage or pull up the sod.

For more information and pricing, please visit our web site or call. Open 7 Days a week during the season.

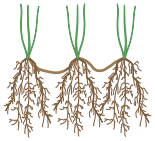


13159 N. US Highway 85 • Littleton, Colorado 80125 • (303) 798-6764 • fax (303) 798-4057 • www.gvt.net

www.  
gvt.  
net

We are located 3/4 mile South of C-470 on S. Santa Fe Drive





# Established Lawn Care Guide

## 3 Steps To A Great Lawn

1. Water
2. Mow
3. Fertilize

### Colorado Turf

In Colorado most lawns are comprised of cool-season grasses. Kentucky Bluegrass is the most popular grass accounting for 95% of all turf areas. Tall Fescue is second and becoming more popular. The growing season for these grasses is April to October. A well designed and maintained automatic sprinkler system is highly recommended in Colorado to maintain turf and to use water wisely. The following information applies to Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue.

### Watering

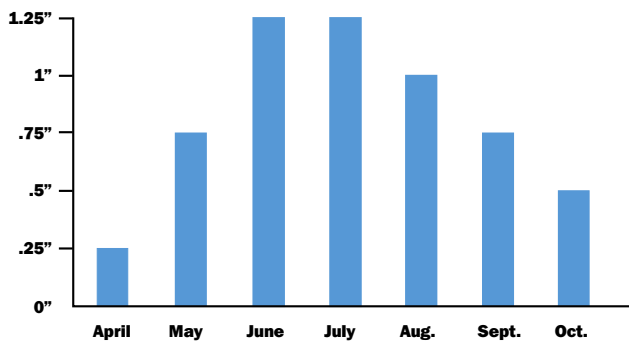
Watering your established lawn varies depending on the time of year, weather, sun, shade, slope, wind and temperatures. Watering uniformly, deeply and infrequently will help keep your lawn healthy. Judgement and common sense are important in determining when your yard needs water. A healthy, deep rooted lawn attained through less frequent, deep irrigation, often withstands minor drought better than an over-watered lawn. It is important to water your lawn if it dries out and becomes drought-stressed. The following are signs your lawn needs watering:

- 1st Stage -- Grass blades turn bluish gray in color
- 2nd Stage -- Footprints left when walked on
- 3rd Stage -- Grass blades turn straw color

If any of these stages start to appear in your yard, it needs water. You can also use a screwdriver to determine how much moisture in your soil profile. If the screwdriver goes in easy, it should have good moisture. If it is hard to push it into the yard, your lawn may be dry. During times of extreme summer heat, your established lawn may need to be watered 3 to 4 times a week. Also, a lawn growing in sandy soil will need to be irrigated more often with smaller amounts of water. Sandy soils hold little plant-available moisture. Turf growing in a clay soil can be irrigated less frequently.

### How Much Water?

To determine how much water a sprinkler zone puts out, put four identical cans at various distances from a sprinkler within its spray pattern. Run the sprinkler zone for 15 minutes. Pour all the water collected from the 4 cans into one and measure with a ruler. Lets say it equals 1". That means your sprinkler zone put on one 1" of water per hour. Once you know how much your zone put on per hour, you can adjust them each month based off the chart below.



**Inches of Water per week for the Average Yard**

Example: In May, you need .75" of water per week & you feel it would be best to water 3 times a week. You would apply .25" of water per watering. If the sprinkler put on 1" per hour, you would run the zone for 15 minutes

### Best Time To Water?

The most efficient time to water is late evening, after 9 p.m. and early morning before 5 a.m.. It generally is less windy, cooler and more humid at this time, resulting in less evaporation and more efficient use of water. Water pressure is generally better and this results in optimal distribution patterns. Watering at night does not encourage disease development in Colorado due to the dry climate.

### Other Watering Tips

With most soils, do not apply all the water in one cycle or in a short period of time. If water is applied too quickly, it will often run off turf areas due to slopes, compaction, heavy clay soils and thatch. In these cases, it is more effective to apply half the water in two back to back irrigations cycles. This allows water to soak into the soil rather than run off. Core cultivation, aeration can resolve some infiltration problems by reducing thatch and reducing compaction.

### Mowing

Mow cool season grasses 1.75" to 3" tall when the turf is dry to the touch with a sharp blade. A dull mower blade will shred and fray leaf blades instead of cutting them cleanly. The result is a brown, unattractive lawn. Mow often enough so no more than 1/3 of the grass height is removed at any single mowing. If your mowing height is 2 inches, mow the grass when it is 3 inches tall. You may have to mow a healthy bluegrass or fescue lawn every three to four days during ideal growing conditions. If weather or other factors keep you from mowing your lawn, raise the height of cut to avoid cutting too much off at one time. Cut the grass again a few days later at the normal mowing height. Pick up the clippings if they form clumps and are matting down and smothering your lawn.

During routine mowings, let the grass clippings fall back onto the lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and provide a source of recycled nutrients and organic matter for the lawn. Mulching mowers can do this easily. Side-discharge rotary mowers also distribute clippings effectively if the lawn is mowed at the proper frequency. Grass clippings do not contribute to thatch accumulation.

### Fertilizer

To supply proper nutrition for your lawn, we suggest applying three to four applications of fertilizer per year. Depending on the weather, these applications should be made in March, May, July, and September. How often and what type of fertilizer you use will determine the health of your lawn. If you are watering properly but your lawn is thin, lighter green in color or is not growing well, your lawn needs to be fertilized. We suggest applying a high analysis fertilizer when your lawn needs a boost. If your lawn is thick and healthy use a slow release fertilizer.

High analysis fertilizers green up you lawn quickly, promote top growth and root development. Slow release fertilizers work slower and release nutrients over a longer period of time. Organic fertilizers work even slower because the organic components must break down before the plant can utilize them. Also, use a fertilizer that is formulated for Colorado soils and our dry climate. We have been selling fertilizers for Colorado for over 40 years. With a minimal amount of work, your lawn will look great and stay healthy.

For More information please see:

<http://www.gvt.net>

<http://csuturf.colostate.edu/Pages/homelawncare.htm>