

## ESTABLISHING NEW SOD



### *Keeping your beautiful lawn beautiful*

Congratulations! You invested in a great lawn and cannot wait for the grilling, the lawn games, the clean(er) dog paws and the memories that will be made in your yard.

Don't worry, the time for all that fun is close at hand. But first it is time to help your transplanted sod thrive *quickly*. How you care for newly laid sod is a crucial in making sure you have a naturally dark green, thick and luxurious low-maintenance lawn long-term.

On the reverse side of this sheet you'll find information on best practices for establishing your new lawn in the first four weeks after it has been laid, including watering, mowing, feeding and use.

If you're also installing your sod, make sure to pick up our "Installing Your Sod" brochure or see our "DIYers" section of our website ([www.bgsod.com](http://www.bgsod.com)) for helpful hints specific to laying sod.

### BGE Sod

- Great for everyday home lawn use
- Dark green in color
- Resistant to disease and insects
- Shade tolerant
- Grows low and thick requiring less mowing and gives your lawn a carpet look and feel.



[www.bgsod.com](http://www.bgsod.com)

 Blue Grass Enterprises, Inc.

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### WATERING:

**The First Day:** Newly installed sod must be watered *immediately* to prevent wilting. If it is hot and dry, wetting the soil first helps reduce stress for the plant. When starting out or in a small area, it is helpful to have one person laying sod while a second person waters by hand.

Once a larger area is laid, set up a sprinkler (be sure to get the edges). New sod has a very short root system and lacks the ability to pull moisture from the lower soil profile to stay cool and green, so it is important to water every three or four hours. If you have a large area, move the sprinklers every hour so all the turf gets some water. Even if you haven't soaked the ground you can come back later and water sufficiently.

**Pro Tip 1:** Water areas near buildings, driveways and sidewalks more often due to reflected heat drying the grass faster.

**Pro Tip 2:** There are many variables (e.g.: water pressure, hose size, type of sprinkler, etc...) that affect water output from your system, so it is important to

















measure the amount of water your system applies. Put a rain gauge or a flat

bottom can a few feet from your sprinkler head and time how long it takes to catch a 1/4 inch of water.

**The First Week:** Your new sod needs a 1/4 inch of water each day. For a newly installed lawn, the best time to water is during the heat of the day (between 9 AM and 4 PM).

**The First Month:** In the second week your lawn needs a 1/4 inch of water every other day. Water every third day the third week. Water every fourth day the fourth week. Then Mother Nature should take care of the rest!

**What to Remember:** It will take months for the roots to grow to their full depth - so water if your grass looks wilted. Once

|     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| 3rd |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |
| 4th |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |

established, your lawn requires minimal maintenance to retain its beautiful appearance. Established lawns need about 3/4 inch of moisture weekly depending on soil type. Rainfall and your turf's appearance will dictate when moisture is required. Indications that your lawn needs moisture are: 1) You see footprints after walking across the lawn 2) The blades are folded or rolled 3) The grass is a bluish/gray color and wilting.

For established lawns, watering during the early morning is best. Install a rain sensor or adjust your watering to the weather conditions because ultimately, mother nature is in charge.

**MOWING:** Mow your new lawn the second week after installation. Mowing controls leaf growth and encourages root development. Only mow when your lawn is dry. Mow often, never removing more than 1/3 of the grass blade. It is recommended to mow bluegrass to a height of 2 to 2.5 inches. Keep your mower blades sharp to cut the grass cleanly and to reduce stress on the plant and keep moisture in your lawn. Leave grass clippings on the lawn as they add moisture and nutrients back into the soil as they decompose.

**FEEDING:** Apply a starter fertilizer in the first week to speed root development and save time and water. We recommend triple 13 fertilizer (13-13-13); check with your contractor to see if this has already been done. After 4 weeks, reapply 13-13-13 fertilizer and continue every 4 weeks until you are satisfied with look of your new lawn.

**USE:** During the first two weeks, avoid heavy or concentrated use of your new lawn. This will give the roots an opportunity to firmly knit with the soil.

**MAINTENANCE:** For on-going maintenance information and schedules, see our website at [www.bgsod.com](http://www.bgsod.com) to review our 4 Step lawn maintenance program.

