

CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD

Now that the new sod is in place along the street and driveway areas, care must be taken in order that it survives. We ask for your assistance to help ensure the sod receives adequate water and maintenance. Please avoid walking on your new sod for the first two weeks.

WATERING

The contractor will water the sod for the first 30 days only, and neither the contractor nor the City of Minnetonka will be responsible for replacing dead sod after that time. After the initial 30 days, you will be responsible for watering and maintenance of your new sod. **Even during the first 30 days, if you notice that the sod is drying out, please water it accordingly.** This will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures.

The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of 1 inch per week. **New sod requires twice as much water, or 2 inches per week done in 3 or 4 applications.** More frequent, lighter waterings are not desirable. They encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain. During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day if allowed by the City's watering restrictions. Checking to see if you are watering enough is easily done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container.

Any rainfall received during the week can be included in your 2 inches a week watering total. You should continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall.

MOWING - DO NOT MOW FOR 3-4 WEEKS. This is the only method by which your sod will develop deep roots.

Your new sod should not be mowed until either the grass lays over and mats down when wetted, or the grass goes to seed. Don't be alarmed if either of these conditions do not occur in the first 30 days. **Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the remainder of the year. Your new sod may die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.**

FERTILIZING

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until next spring. **If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.** When you do fertilize, use a phosphorus-free fertilizer (i.e. 15-0-0, middle number is phosphorus and should be zero) and follow the manufacturer's instructions on application rates.

The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn.

- **New sod requires twice as much water or 2 inches per week done in 3 or 4 applications.**
- **Cut new sod at the highest setting on your mower.**
- **Do not fertilize until next spring.**