

CASTLE PINES NORTH



METROPOLITAN DISTRICT™

Sod Installation Guide

- ❖ Although turf can be established from seed or sod, sod provides the additional benefits of quick establishment and the ability to handle heavy rains with less susceptibility to erosion.
- ❖ Prepare the site prior to the arrival of the sod.
 - Remove weeds and debris.
 - Establish a rough grade and eliminate low spots.
 - Spread and rototill a minimum of six cubic yards of organics (compost) per 1,000 square feet at least six inches deep. This is approximately 2" of compost spread evenly over the surface prior to rototilling.
 - Level and rake the installation site until it is smooth.
 - Grade areas along sidewalks and driveways approximately one and one-half inches below top of concrete.
- ❖ Have on site all hoses and sprinklers for the initial watering.
 - Make sure your sprinkler system is performing properly.
 - Understand the operation of the sprinkler clock for proper watering of the new and established lawn.
- ❖ Order sod to be delivered once site is prepared and the sprinkler system is understood and operating properly.
- ❖ Install the sod immediately after delivery.
 - Arrange the rolls so there is a minimum amount of traffic on the prepared soil and the newly installed grass.
- ❖ Lay sod in a horizontal brick pattern.
- ❖ Once an area of approximately 15 feet by 15 feet has been laid, water immediately. The objective is not to let the sod dehydrate.
- ❖ Butt ends and sides of the sod strips making sure there is no overlapping.
- ❖ Fit the sod around obstacles or in smaller places by merely cutting the dirt side with a sod knife.
- ❖ Water properly, as follows:
 - Once all the sod is laid, begin watering to build up the sub-soil moisture. This is the most critical time to apply water. Up to one-half inch to one inch of water per day for the first two to three days may be required. Probe the soil to determine if the moisture has penetrated at least four inches.

- Each day may require more than one application depending upon wind and temperature. The reason for several light applications is to keep the root zone and blades moist, and to minimize runoff.
 - Week three is used as a transition period from daily watering with frequent applications per day to an increased number of days between watering. During this time the grass should be ready for routine maintenance. By the end of the establishment period, the grass should be able to go several days between waterings depending on the season and weather.
- ❖ After the initial three weeks, adjust watering times and sprinkler clocks to conform to any watering restrictions in your area.
 - ❖ A Quick Reference Guide is as follows for first 30 days:
 - Week #1: Water 2-3 times per day
 - Week #2: Water 1-2 times per day
 - Week #3: Water every day or every other day
 - Week #4: Water 2-3 times per week to establish your ongoing schedule
 - ❖ When starting a lawn from seed, amend the soil in a manner similar to sod.
 - ❖ Frequent light waterings are needed to keep the seed bed evenly moist until the seed has germinated. After the grass plants begin to emerge, watering frequency should be reduced.
 - ❖ The approximate amount of water that needs to be applied each week for an average, traditional bluegrass lawn to supplement normal rainfall is listed below:

Approximate supplemental water to apply to bluegrass turf (inches per week)

May	June	July	Aug	Sept
1.0	1.25	1.5	1.5	1.0

- ❖ *The above data are based on historical averages and should be used as a guideline and not as a substitute for good judgment, reason and common sense.* Under less-than-average rainfall conditions, the amounts shown in the chart can be increased. If there is greater-than normal rainfall, then the amount of supplemental water should be reduced.
- ❖ Measure the water applied by using rain gauges or cans placed on the lawn in areas covered by sprinklers.
- ❖ See CPNMD's Guide to Outdoor Watering for detailed information on calibrating your sprinkler system.