

How to prepare your ground.



Remove existing lawn:

Prior to the installation of sod, any existing lawn should be chemically killed and removed. Make sure that the existing lawn is well watered and growing vigorously. Apply an

herbicide such as Roundup®, or a similar product, to the entire lawn. Read and follow all label instructions. A second application about two weeks after the first will catch those areas missed and generally insure a complete kill of turf and weeds. Should the existing lawn contain bermuda grass, kikuyu grass, or other warm season grasses, chemical control will only be attained from April through mid-October. (Be aware that Roundup® does not control the seed of common bermuda grass, kikuyu grass, or any other weed seed.) For information concerning the control of weed seed prior to sod installation, consult your local nurseryman for recommendations. When the turf is completely brown and dead, the old lawn can be easily removed with a sod cutter. Be sure to cut thin! All you wish to remove is dead vegetation, not a thick layer of soil. After removal of the dead turf, clear the ground of all remaining debris.



Add amendments and rototill:

For areas where the removal of an old lawn is not a consideration, be sure to clear the ground of rocks, wood, weeds and other debris. Should there be too many weeds to clear by

hand, an herbicide such as Roundup® will lessen the work load. If bermuda grass, kikuyu grass or nut grass are present, chemical seed control is a must. Once cleared of debris, spread amendments in a 2-inch layer using combinations of ground fir bark, shavings, rice hulls, etc. Also apply a good preplant fertilizer at the recommended rates. Using a rototiller, blend the amendments with the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. For the hybrid bermudas and Sunclipse® St. Augustine sod lawns, rototill only to 4 inches.



Install sprinkler

system: A sprinkler system is a virtual necessity for the survival of a lawn in the West. Your system should be well designed and thought out. Soil type, wind, slope and mounds, sun or shade, sod variety, and lawn use are among the many factors to be considered in your design. A good landscape and irrigation supply business is an excellent place to start for design information and help. Remember, it is best to keep lawn irrigation systems separate from those for trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Also, incorporation of a clock in the system to control frequency and length of watering is strongly recommended. There are many excellent types available at a wide range of pricing and ease of installation and operation. During installation, keep the risers covered on top to prevent soil or debris from plugging lines. Install heads as per step number six.



Rough grade the soil:

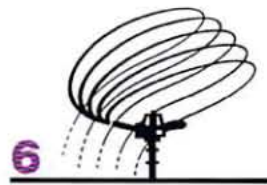
Once again, clear the surface of any large root segments, rocks or debris that may have turned up with the tilling. Using a wide landscape rake, begin leveling the area. Make sure the soil level is approximately 1 inch below the edges of sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.



Smooth surface with

roller: Using a lawn roller, roll the area in two different directions. This will further help to break up clods and expose any high or low spots in your level. Rolling also firms the soil and will help to minimize excessive settling. After rolling, level any depressions and fine-grade the area. This is an especially important step for the installation of hybrid

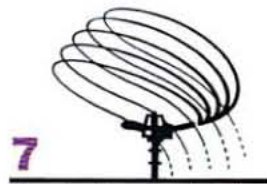
bermudas and Sunclipse® St. Augustine. Excessive settling after installation of the sod will result in a very uneven mowing surface and poor appearance. To avoid compaction, be sure the soil is dry before rolling.



Install sprinkler heads:

With the fine grading done, cut your extended sprinkler risers down to grade and install the sprinkler heads. Remember to compensate for the thickness of the sod and the recommended

mowing heights before setting the heads.



Water to six-inch depth whenever possible:

Several days prior to the delivery and installation of your sod, the area should receive a good watering. This will enable the new sod to establish faster. This is

also the time to check out your sprinkler system. To avoid dry patches and to promote even growth, coverage should be from sprinkler head to sprinkler head. To check for even coverage over all areas, use paper cups placed in parallel lines. Prior to sod installation, check once again for settling and low areas. Regrade if necessary.