



SOD CARE SHEET

Long Term Care

WATERING THE CORRECT WAY

The correct way to water a mature lawn is simple, thoroughly but infrequently. When the soil is dry to a depth of five inches, water long enough to rewet the soil five inches deep. You need to learn two things to water sod properly:

1. How to tell when the soil is dry five inches deep. In a dry period, dig in the soil with a garden trowel to see how deep the soil moisture is. Moist soil is softer and darker in color. Soil dries from the top down. Grass will turn a bluish color in the heat of the day as the soil dries.
2. How long do you have to run each zone to rewet the soil five inches deep? You have to experiment. When dry, run a zone for 60 minutes, and dig in the soil 12 to 24 hours later to see how far down the water went. Do the for each zone. If you wet the soil deeper , or shallower, repeat the test for a different amount of time. Remember these points for each test. No two zones are the same. Each zone will dry out and take water at different rates, and each zone applies water at different rates. You can water your lawn anytime of the day, but mornings is a good time because of typically less windy conditions. Avoid watering in the later afternoon or evening.

WHY YOU CAN'T SET AND FORGET A TIMER?

How often you need to water depends on how fast the soil dries out. The factors that influence how fast a soil dries out, temperatures wind, amount of sunshine, and cloud cover. Soils dry faster on warm, sunny, windy days, than cool, cloudy, and calm days. Can a sprinkler system that is set to run every few days for a few minutes take any of those factors into account? Of course not! People who set and forget a sprinkler system usually over water, which causes serious problems like disease and nasty weeds. A lawn is more forgiving if you under water than over water it. Besides, a mature lawn will not die if you under water it.

TROUBLE SHOOTING WATERING PROBLEMS

Even though you have a sprinkler system, sometimes you might notice a part of your lawn that looks drier from the rest, especially during a dry period. It could be a complete zone, or just a part of one. The first thing to check is how much water your system is actually applying. Use some straight sided cans, like a tuna fish can, put them in a zone that looks good and one that looks dry. Run your system as usual and measure the amount of water in the different cans. If you find a difference in the levels, you can identify and correct sprinkler system problem.

MOWING

From May through September, mow at a height of 3 inches to 4 inches. From September through November, gradually lower the height to a final height of 2.5-3 inches. Mowing high like this results in fewer weed problems and a healthier turf. Clippings do not contribute to thatch production. Clipping should not be collected unless they are long and smother the grass. Leaving the clippings recycles the nutrients back onto the lawn, saving in fertilizer costs.



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FERTILIZATION

It is important to fertilize by a program, whether you hire the work done or do it yourself. Contact Liberty Landscape Supply for additional details if needed! (904)261-7177

CRABGRASS AND GRUB CONTROLS

Unfortunately, advertising has made the threats from these pests seem larger than they really are. Large sums of money are wasted and pesticides are unnecessarily added to the environment. Briefly, crabgrass is only a problem in spots where the turf is thin. You can approach control two ways. Spot treat thin spots that have had crabgrass in the past in the spring before it comes up, or have a lawn service spot treat weeds after they come up. A lawn seldom needs to be totally treated. All lawns have some grubs, but it takes more than five per square foot to cause damage. To save yourself some money, and protect the environment, become informed.

AERIFYING LAWNS

The purpose of aerifying is to loosen up a compacted soil. Compaction comes from two sources. New lawns can be compacted during constructions and may benefit if aerified the first two years. Vehicle traffic, intense wear from dogs or under a swing set can also compact soils. Studies show that core aerification is the method that provides the most benefits, and one or two passes does not accomplish much.

*****Please remember there is no warranty on sod after acceptance. Maintenance, watering and ongoing care are critical to success****