



## **INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR YOUR TURF**

1. Remove all building waste and weeds.
2. Spread a free draining soil to a depth of 7-15cm (roots can penetrate much deeper) or loosen ground and mix in appropriate soil conditioners. Phone a soil supplier for more advice on this option. For sandy soils, simply mix in organic material and rotary hoe.
3. Level the surface using a screeding board, lawn leveler or similar device.
4. Apply a low analysis fertiliser with an N:P:K of approximately 5:6:5 or lawn starter fertiliser to the surface and incorporate a rake. Or alternatively you can apply fertiliser on top of your lawn approximately 2 weeks after installation.
5. In hot months, moisten the soil but do not make the soil too wet. Do not lay turf on hot, dry soil.
6. Lay turf as soon as possible after delivery.
7. On hot days, lay a section of turf and lightly water. Repeat until all turf is laid. On cool days, turf can be laid all at once. Roll and water thoroughly within one hour of laying turf.
8. Water thoroughly for 10-14 days or until turf is established, take care that the water is saturating the soil beneath the turf. In colder months, the turf will take longer to establish. The turf should not dry out until roots are established.
9. When the soil has firmed and the turf has rooted down, usually 2-3 weeks after laying (longer in winter), mow lightly to tidy up the lawn.

## **WATERING YOUR TURF**

Newly installed turf has very important watering needs. Proper watering immediately after installation will ensure the turf becomes established, and it will also have an impact on how well the lawn continues to flourish for years to come. Begin watering new turf within half hour after it is laid on the soil. Apply at least 2 to 3 cm (1 inch) of water so that the soil beneath the turf is very wet. Ideally the soil 7 to 10cm (3 to 4 inches) below the surface should be moist. Below we have listed some watering tips:

1. Pull back a corner of the turf and push a screwdriver or other sharp tool into the soil. It should push in easily and have moisture along the first 7 to 10cm (3 to 4 inches), or you need to apply more water.
2. Make absolutely certain that water is getting to all areas of your new lawn, regardless of the type of sprinkling system you use. Corners and edges are easily missed by many sprinklers (if windy) and are particularly vulnerable to drying out faster than the centre portion of your lawn. Also areas near buildings dry out faster because of reflected heat and may require more water.
3. Runoff may occur on some soils and sloped areas before the soil is adequately moist. To conserve water and ensure adequate soak in, turn off the water when runoff begins, wait 30 mins to an hour and restart the watering on the same area. Repeating this start and stop process until correct soil moisture is achieved. For the next two weeks keep the below-turf soil surface moist with daily (or more frequent) watering. Especially hot, dry or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts and frequency.

4. As the turf starts to establish its new roots into the soil, it will be difficult, impossible and/or harmful to pull back a corner to check beneath the turf, but you can still use a sharp tool to check moisture depth by pushing it through the turf and into the soil.
5. Water as early in the morning as possible to take advantage of the daily start of the grass's normal growing cycle, usually lower wind speeds and considerably less of water loss because of high temperature evaporation.
6. If the temperature approaches 37C (100F), or high winds are constant for more than half of the day, reduce the temperature of the turf surface by lightly sprinkling the area. This sprinkling does not replace the need for longer, deeper watering, which will become even more critical during adverse weather conditions.
7. Infrequent and deep watering is preferred to frequent and shallow watering because the roots will only grow as deeply as its most frequently available water supply. Deeply rooted grass has a larger "soil-water bank" to draw moisture from and this will help the grass survive drought and hot weather that rapidly dries out the upper soil layer.

## **MOWING**

1. Mow every 5-10 days in the hot months; mow every 3-6 weeks in the cold months.
2. Mowing height will vary: 2-5cm in sunny/lightly shaded situations, 5-7cm in heavier shaded situations.

## **WATERING**

1. Water thoroughly and regularly after the turf has been laid to encourage a deep and vigorous root system (turf will be able to fossick for water and therefore be more able to withstand hot dry conditions).
2. Once the root system has been fully established, water thoroughly only when needed-when a slight wilting is visible, usually once every 7-10 days in summer (on sandy soils more often), with much less or no water in cooler months.
3. Remember that infrequent, deep watering promotes a healthy lawn.
4. It is best to water in the early morning; night watering is not recommended.
5. For your current water restrictions please contact your local Council or our Turf Consultants.

## **FERTILISING**

1. Lawns need to be fed to remain strong and healthy.
2. Use a complete fertiliser in early April and early September.
3. If you need a quick green up, use a fertiliser high in nitrogen to promote a lush green lawn.

## **PESTS, WEEDS AND DISEASES**

If your turf gets any pests, weeds and diseases, we recommend the following:

1. Pests – watch for lawn grub (eg. Web worm or army worm) and African black beetle – apply suitable pesticides according to directions. Especially in the summer months.
2. Fungi – watch for Brown Patches and Grey Leaf Spot – apply systemic fungicide.
3. Weeds – if weeds infest, hand eradicate before seed head develops or apply a suitable weedicide (ask your local garden centre).

**NB: sprays containing DICAMBA must not be applied to soft leaf buffalo!!!**

**Please phone our office on 1800 767 644 for any enquiries**