

Triploid Hybrid Bermudagrass New Installation Watering Guide

How Long Does it Take Sod to Root?

It takes on average **1-2 weeks** for newly installed sod to truly take hold, meaning you must follow a regimented watering schedule to ensure its health.

During the first two weeks, your sod will form a shallow root system — which is why you will have a more rigorous water schedule. Shallow roots are more susceptible to drying out and **watering will help prevent the sod from becoming compromised.**

Weeks after installation, your sod will begin forming deep roots that grow further into the soil and you will be able to decrease the amount of water and watering time during your landscape maintenance.

When to Start Watering Your Sod

Newly laid sod should be watered for **at least 45 minutes immediately following your sod installation.** Too short of a watering time won't allow the sod or soil to gather enough moisture to begin the rooting process.

Provide your sod with ample water that will enable the roots to grow into the soil. Following the initial watering session, you will need to follow a rigorous watering schedule during the first few weeks after installation that includes watering the sod for **10 minutes at least three times a day.**

These watering times gradually decrease as time goes on.

New Sod Watering Schedule

When possible, it is recommended that you water your lawn in the morning, avoiding the hottest parts of the day when the water will have a more difficult time absorbing into the ground. An irrigation system can help you set up a structured schedule so you don't miss a watering session.

For new sod especially, a regimented and structured watering routine is recommended:

- **Installation Day**

When your sod is installed, you should soak it in water for at least 45 minutes to prevent the grass from drying out before it has had a chance to develop roots that grow into the soil. Ensure that the soil underneath the sod is moist three to four inches deep. However, you do need to be mindful not to end up with overwatered grass that can cause root rot.

- **Week 1**

Over the next few days, you should water your lawn multiple times a day — **typically around 10 minutes a day, 2 or 3 times a day**. Every watering session should provide the right amount of water to get the roots and soil thoroughly wet.

- **Pro tip:** Be mindful of sod along the edges of your landscape where it is more likely to dry out! You may want to spend extra time watering in those areas. If any areas of the lawn appear to be drying out, make sure they receive additional water coverage.

After the first week, you should begin to see roots growing into the soil.

- **Week 2**

Apply fertilizer about 1 week after installation to quicken green up. Apply .5 to 1# of Nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Choose a fertilizer with NPK ratios of approximately 3-1-2 (ex: A 25# bag of 21-7-14 fertilizer has 10.5# of Nitrogen and will cover 5000 square feet). You may want to use a “Turf Builder” fertilizer for the first application. After that, fertilize monthly once the Bermudagrass has come out of dormancy and only during the growing season (in Utah the growing season would normally be May through October).

Around ten days after sod installation, you can begin pairing back the watering time to twice per day. However, you should still be keeping an eye out for dry patches to prevent your sod from dying.

- **Pro tip:** If you live in an area where it rains frequently, you need to **factor in rainfall to your watering schedule** to not overwater.

Continue to monitor the soil, ensuring that it remains moist without becoming waterlogged or dried out. Around the end of the two-week mark, depending on temperature, if your lawn has had sufficient blade growth your lawn may be ready for you to mow for the first time. Allow the ground to dry sufficiently before mowing to prevent creation of low spots due to mower wheels and footsteps.

- **Week 3 - 4**

Continue watering your newly laid sod so it receives about **.5 inch of water per week**.

- **Pro tip:** If you’re asking yourself, “can new sod be overwatered?” It can, and you need to be mindful that you aren’t overwatering the lawn after the first two weeks. Provide any dry spots with a long, deep soak to keep the soil underneath moist.

After the first month, you can begin maintaining your newly installed sod like you would the remainder of your existing lawn.

Reference Our New Sod Watering Chart

New Sod Watering Chart

A regimented watering schedule is recommended for new sod, but beware of overwatering! Ensure your soil is moist 3"- 4" deep.

How Often Should You Be Watering Your New Sod?

Period (Days)	Watering
Installation Day	Soak for 45 minutes. Soil should be moist 3"-4" deep.
1-7 Days	3x per day, typically for around 10 minutes each.
8-13 Days	Transition slowly to watering 2x per day by day 10.
14 - 28 Days	Water your sod a cumulative .5" of water per week.
Day 28+	Maintain your sod following the watering guide.

Overwatered Your Sod?

Because sod requires a lot of moisture during the first two weeks following sod installation, it can be easy to fall into the trap of overwatering your sod. While consistent watering is an absolute must for your lawn to grow deep roots, too much water can be detrimental to its health. When watering your sod, make sure the top three to four inches of soil is always moist but not soaked.

Fertilization

Apply fertilizer monthly after installation. Choose a fertilizer with an approximate NPK ratio of 3-1-2 and apply about ½# Nitrogen per 1000 square feet.