

# Zamora Sod Farm

Care & Installation Guide

## Installation- Look How Easy It is!

### How to prepare your lot:

#### 1. Rough Grading

Remove debris, such as cement spillage, large rocks and lumber. For best results, rototill area to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Then rake workable soil into a smooth grade, following the desired contour of your yard. Mounds or hills can be retained.



#### 2. Topsoil

Sod will grow on almost anything. Still, adding topsoil will enhance your lawn, especially if your soil is too clayish, too sandy, or nutritionally poor. Rocky gravel needs topsoil too.

Adding sandy topsoil will improve clayish soil, and adding topsoil with a higher clay content will help reduce water consumption if your soil is sandy.

Soil tests are available in special kits if you think your soil may be deficient in nutrients or too alkaline or acid.

#### 3. Final Grading

Tilling and adding topsoil may leave the ground somewhat uneven. Level the mounds and low spots with rakes and shovels. Rake out all rocks and debris which do not pass through the rake. Pull weeds—but do not use herbicides.



You will need to decide beforehand how far above driveways and sidewalks you want your lawn to grow. You'll want to maintain your established lawn at a height of 1 1/2 or 2 inches for best growth. The soil and root system of the sod is about 1/2 inch thick. Usually a grade of 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches below driveways is recommended for the soil.

Remember, the sod is uniformly machine cut and will conform to any irregularities in your grade.

Water soil lightly to firm it down. Now you're ready to order sod.

### Lay sod on the day of delivery

The average person can comfortably lay 2,000 to 2,500 square feet in one eight-hour day. Make sure your yard is completely ready before delivery or pick-up, and order only what you can lay in one day. Sod is perishable!

### How much should I order?

Measure your yard and subtract your house dimensions and other areas not to be sodded. **Area equals length times width.** Whatever is left over is the amount you should order in square feet. It is not wise to cut corners. Give yourself a generous surplus for patching and extras. You will need an automatic sprinkling system to care for sod in the North Valley.

### How to order

Call at least three days before you want to lay the sod. We can give you better service toward the first of the week since we have a lot of weekend customers.

You tell us...

1. The amount of sod you need in square feet.
2. The date you want delivery or pick up.
3. The address where sod is to be delivered.

**WE CAN MAKE NO CHANGES ON DELIVERY DAY BECAUSE THE SOD IS ALREADY CUT.**

*Our sod prices are really down to earth!*

### How to install your new sod lawn...

#### Make a plan

Plan in advance where you will begin laying and how you will proceed in order to avoid walking across newly laid sod. Don't box in the water controls or the path to and from the sod pallet. Start on a border of the yard, against a sidewalk or driveway.

#### Here's how to lay the sod

1. Lightly dampen as much ground as you can lay in 30 minutes but no longer.
2. Each roll of sod weighs approximately 50 pounds, making it easy to handle. It is 18 inches by 80 inches in size. Place the end of each roll tightly up against the previous one to avoid gaps. Make sure the pieces do not overlap.

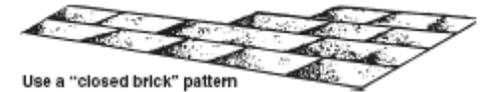


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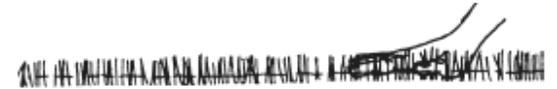
INCORRECT

3. When you start the second row, line up the end of your first piece in this row with the middle of the first piece in the first row. (See drawing). This will create a "closed brick" pattern. This prevents water from washing away the soil from the seams.



Use a "closed brick" pattern

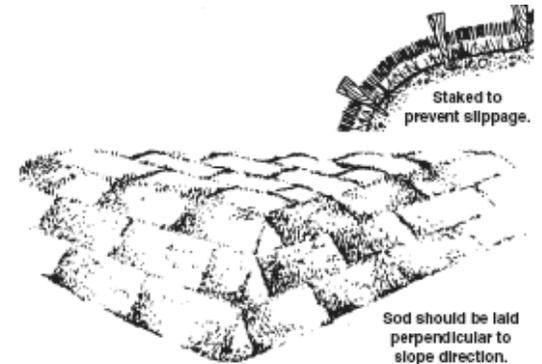
4. **Soak it!** After laying sod for 30 minutes, saturate what you have laid. Then dampen the ground for the next batch.
5. To test for adequate saturation, press your hand on the wet sod and see if water comes up between your fingers.



6. If the final grade is smooth and the sod looks good, there is no need to roll it. If you decide to roll a bumpy lawn, do it the next day before saturating again. Rolling works best with a fairly dry lawn.

### Slopes and patching

On a steep slope or hill, lay the rolls of sod across the hill perpendicular to it in a brick pattern.



Staked to prevent slippage.

Sod should be laid perpendicular to slope direction.

## Care—If you have any question, please call us!

### Water

#### New Sod

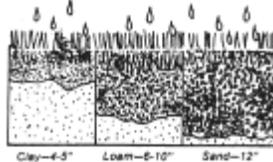
Keep sod saturated for the first couple of days. Water for 15 to 20 minute intervals at least 4 times a day, preferably before 12:00 P.M., so that surface moisture will have a chance to evaporate during the day, giving you fewer problems with fungus and disease.

#### Established Lawn

Deep watering is better than more frequent, light watering because it uses less water, creates deeper, stronger root systems, and discourages crabgrass and disease. Experiment to set up the best watering schedule for your lawn.

Say you've watered Monday morning, check Tuesday afternoon to see if the grass looks "thirsty." You'll know because the grass will change in color from a fresh, deep green to a dull gray-green almost blue color. Thirsty grass does not spring back quickly and shows footprints.

**f water penetrates at a different rate in clay, loam and sand.**

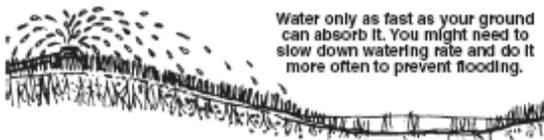


#### Clayish Soil

Watch what happens when you water for half an hour or so. Puddles and runoff mean you probably have clayish soil that does not allow water to penetrate quickly. Water only as fast as your ground can absorb it to prevent flooding and drowning the grass.

#### Sandy Soil

Sandy soil wastes water by allowing it to penetrate too quickly. You may have to water more often or for longer periods to keep the root system moist.



### Fertilizer

Think of fertilizer as "plant food." In order to maintain a healthy lawn, you must "feed" it. The numbers represent the percent of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium and are referred to as "N," "P," and "K." Thus, a fertilizer analysis of 10-10-10 would contain 10% of each nutrient.

Before laying your new sod, it is best to fertilize the ground. Use a fertilizer that is low in "N" (so that it does not burn the roots) but high in "P" and "K" (to promote root development). We recommend 6-20-20 (at 10 lbs per 1000 sq ft).

For established lawns, fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks. Begin early in the spring with a "well-balanced" fertilizer, (don't get the N, P and K numbers too far apart from each other). We recommend TURF SUPREME 16-6-8, (at 5 lbs per 1000 sq ft). You should plan your last application for the year at October 15th because the grass goes to "sleep" after that date and usually does not require any food.

All the fertilizers mentioned above are available from us or your local nursery or garden center.

### Mowing

#### How often?

Newly sodded lawns should not be mowed for at least ten days. Thereafter, mow often enough to keep clippings short 1/4 to 1/2 inches. Long clippings left on the lawn can lead to "thatch," choking the lawn and inhibiting water penetration. Sod grows best when maintained at a height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches.

#### How much?

Grass goes into shock from curtailed food production if more than 1/3 of the grass blade is cut off at any one time. Even if your grass has grown quite long, cut only a third, then wait a few days before mowing again.

#### How?

After ten days, mow newly sodded lawn at a 45 degree angle to the sod strips. Use a sharpened mower, because a dull mower frays grass tips, making the lawn look brown. Be careful to avoid "scalping" when mowing around flower beds or over uneven ground.



Mowing should be frequent enough so clippings are not longer than 1/4 to 1/2 inches in length. If they are kept this short, they can remain on the lawn, as short clippings decompose more quickly into healthy compost. Long clippings can develop a "thatch" effect and possibly choke the lawn or inhibit water penetration.

### Problems

Your sod comes free from weeds, disease and insects. If you have any problems (even if you just suspect a problem) please call us that day—don't wait. The sooner treatment begins the easier the problem is to resolve.

A properly nourished and maintained lawn will have a minimum of problems over the years.

### Aeration

In several years, you might want to rent a power rake to remove "thatch" and a power aerator that will break up compacted soil and allow water and air to enter freely. The machine slices and removes cones from your lawns at intervals, and relieves "thatching" problems from grass cuttings that choke the lawn.

Slippage is sometimes observable after a heavy watering. If the sod starts to slip on an incline, drive small wooden pegs into the top edge of each piece about every third row. This ought to hold until the root growth is established.

When sod is laid around a flower bed, tree or other border, use a linoleum or paring knife to trim and smooth the ends to the desired shape or angle.

