



WATERING NEW SOD

Like any living thing your lawn needs water to survive. Newly installed sod must be watered by hand every 15 minutes to prevent wilting. Once a larger area is ready, use a sprinkler and be sure to get the edges. Especially if it is hot and dry.

The First Day

Watering the first day is the most important, and the best time is during the heat of the day. That's right, the heat of the day (9 AM and 4 PM). Lawns lose the most moisture during the heat of the day. New sod has a very short root system and lacks the ability to pull moisture from the lower soil profile to stay cool and green.

It is important to water every 3 hours. If you have a large area, move the sprinklers every hour so all the turf gets some water. Even if you haven't soaked the ground you can come back later and water sufficiently.

Once the soil under the sod has been completely soaked, you should switch to mornings. Watering in the morning leaves the moisture where the sod can utilize it during the day. Evening watering is ok, but be careful, diseases can thrive at night in humid conditions.

Water areas near buildings, driveways, and walkways more often because reflected heat dries the lawn faster.

1st	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
2nd		W		W		W	
3rd		W			W		
4th		W				W	

W = 1/2" Water

How Long To Water :

Because there are many variables, like water pressure, hose size, type of sprinkler, etc., it is important to measure the amount of water your system applies. Use a rain gauge or a flat bottom can a few feet from a sprinkler and time how long it takes to catch 1/2" of water. You then can easily plan an economical watering schedule. Remember, use common sense and adjust your watering to the weather conditions, because, like it or not, Mother Nature is in charge.

Once established, your lawn requires minimal maintenance to retain its beautiful appearance. Established lawns need about 3/4" of moisture weekly. Your turfs appearance, and time will dictate when moisture is required. It will take several months for the roots to grow to their full depth. Indications that your lawn needs moisture are:

1. When you can see footprints after walking across the lawn.
2. Grass blades are folded/rolled.
3. The grass is turning a bluish, purple color and wilting.

Brown Grass is Not Dead Grass

During finish grading, the soil structure has been disturbed and the soil has dried out. Water rising up through soil capillary action cannot occur for some time and without proper watering, wilting will occur. If wilting does occur, the leaves may turn brown, but don't give up, the sod is not dead. A plant rolls or folds its leaves (wilts) to try to conserve moisture lost through evapotranspiration. If the wilting is severe, the grass blades can turn brown. Once part of the blade turns brown it won't turn green again, however, continue watering the lawn as instructed.

After a couple of mowings the brown ends will be cut off because grass grows from the bottom up and new green growth occurs in the crown. Remember, just because some of the leaves may turn brown temporarily, it does not change the quality of the varieties in the sod and the lawn will recover and thrive.

Keep Off the Grass

During the first two weeks, avoid heavy or concentrated use on your new lawn. This will give the roots an opportunity to firmly knit with the soil. Control your pets. Urine spots and "foot printing" on soft, soggy sod may cause long-term problems.



Tyler Allen
Landscape Designer

1682 Dubuque Road
Marion, Iowa 52302
tylera@culverslandscape.com
319 - 377 - 4195
cell: 319 - 329 - 9990
fax: 319 - 377 - 4820
www.culverslandscape.com

