



Turf Installation & Initial Care Best Practice Guidelines

Congratulations on preparing your area and selecting your turf variety! Now it is time to install and most importantly, look after your new lawn. Follow these best practice guidelines to ensure a successful lawn. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at Hardie Lawns.

The first 6 weeks after turf installation are crucial in ensuring the long-term success of your lawn. As turf has been taken from one environment on farm, to a totally different one in your yard, it is a stressful process for your lawn so careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure it establishes quickly and healthy.

INSTALLING YOUR NEW LAWN

- It is crucial you install your turf on the day of delivery.
- Use a starter fertiliser like Lawn Launcher as per your suppliers' recommendations.
- Start from the furthest point of entry and work your way back, being careful not to walk over freshly laid turf.
- Always butt the ends of your slabs/rolls tightly together, do not leave a gap in between.
- Use full slabs/rolls around hard surfaces like paths and fences
- as these dry out the fastest.
- Install turf in a stretcher bond pattern so that the joints of the rolls/slabs are staggered. This ensures turf establishes more evenly and prevents erosion.
- Install rolls/slabs across slopes.
- Use a sharp knife, garden shears or a spade to cut turf to fit odd shapes.
- It is best to use large pieces of turf to fill in gaps as opposed to several smaller pieces where possible. Smaller pieces are more susceptible to drying out.
- If installing a large area on a day where temperatures are higher than 25 degrees, irrigate completed sections as you go.
- You can give newly installed turf a light roll once completed however this isn't a necessity.

CARING FOR YOUR NEW LAWN

- Immediate irrigation of your newly installed lawn is critical. New lawns must not be allowed to dry out in the first 6 weeks post installation. If you are away from home, sprinklers and tap timers should be used.
- Traffic should be kept to a minimum until the lawn has established fully and has been mown 3-4 times.
- The amount you will be required to irrigate a new lawn will depend on the time of year in which you install it. The below table should be followed as a guide; **however, the most crucial aspect is your lawn should not be allowed to dry out for extended periods.** If you get sufficient rainfall during the day you will not need to irrigate your lawn until the next dry day.
- Each application should be at least 3mm of irrigation. Use a rain gauge or catch cup to check how long this will be with your irrigation method.
- Depending on the time of year and variety, your lawn will vary in the time it takes to establish. It is best to walk out every 3-4 days post installation and pull up the corners of the rolls/slabs gently. If they have established to the soil, it is time to mow. Please note; if you have installed TifTuf in summer this may occur after 5-6 days.
- First mow should be on a high setting to be sure it does not scalp. Ongoing you should mow as required depending on your desired look. You should never take more than 1/3 of the leaf of during any one mow.
- An application of fertiliser should be made 5-6 weeks post installation or after your first mow if installed in cooler conditions.
- Note; it is normal for the corners of slabs/rolls to dry out in the first few weeks post installation. If you are concerned please contact your supplier.

DAY TIME TEMP	FIRST 7 DAYS	IF TURF PULLS UP	IF TURF WON'T PULL UP	AFTER FIRST MOW
UP TO 25°C	4 times per day	2 times per day	every morning	every 2nd day (morning preferred) until your lawn has been down for 5-6 weeks
UP TO 30°C CALM	5 times per day	4 times per day	every early morning and early afternoon	
UP TO 30°C WINDY				
OVER 30°C CALM				
OVER 30°C WINDY	6 times per day	5 times per day		

An easy to follow tip for new lawn irrigation is whenever you finish a watering cycle as per the above table, dunk a tea towel in water and hang it on the clothes line. Once the towel is dry, your lawn is ready for another drink!

By now it is time to get out and enjoy your lawn! Remember to fertilise every 8-10 weeks from September to May and aerate areas seasonally that receive regular traffic.

If you have any questions on lawn care or wish to learn more, visit the lawn care section of the Hardie Lawns website or get in touch with us.