Sod Care & Recommendations

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> *Before you begin, please note: A legal disclaimer is provided on the last page. We recommend reviewing it prior to using this guide.*

Important Information About Your Sod Installation

Clegg & Sons' Sod Farms, LLC is a trusted agricultural producer of premium multi-fescue and bluegrass sod blend. Please keep this in mind when purchasing or applying any lawn treatments, as using the correct products is essential for the health of your new sod.

To help you care for your lawn, we've included in this document an easy-to-read, color-coded chart with treatment recommendations based on the time of year. Be sure to review the chart carefully and follow any instructions noted below. If we have installed sod on your property, any additional care instructions will be provided directly by the sod farmer, if necessary.

Sod is a living, perishable plant that has been freshly cut to order and prepared for transplanting into your yard. Once fully re-established—typically within one year—your sod should be treated as you would any mature lawn. Consistent watering, mowing, and fertilizing are the core elements of healthy lawn maintenance. Periodic thatching and aerating are also recommended to support long-term lawn health.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance, you're always welcome to contact us directly at 1-800-377-1421.

Specific Instructions for Sod Installation

01

Watering:

It is essential to keep the soil beneath the sod consistently moist. Please follow the guidelines outlined in our Sod Watering Guide.

02

Initial Treatment:

Refer to the Recommended Lawn Treatments Schedule included in this document based on the time of year your sod was installed. For example, if your sod was installed in March or April, begin immediately with the "Early Spring" treatment.

03

Ongoing Treatment:

Continue following the treatment chart throughout the year as outlined, applying each seasonal treatment accordingly.

04

Additional Notes:

Pay close attention to the Additional Notes section of the color-coded chart. It includes important information about supplemental steps and care recommendations to ensure the long-term health of your sod.

Recommended Lawn Treatments

We recommend using high-quality, widely available lawn care products that are user-friendly and more forgiving in cases of over-application. For illustration purposes only, specific examples of such products are included in the accompanying color-coded guide.

> **IMPORTANT:** Regardless of the brand you choose, it is essential to carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions—especially those specific to turf grass. Over-application or improper mixing can damage or kill your sod. Always measure accurately and apply with care to protect your investment.

Watering: The Key to Sod Success

The majority of sod issues stem from inadequate watering. New sod requires significantly more water than an established lawn because its roots need consistent moisture to grow and establish. When sod has not been properly watered, the signs are typically very noticeable.

Be especially mindful to ensure all edges of the sod receive enough water—this is critical near concrete, blacktop, and other heat-retaining surfaces where the sod can dry out more quickly.

Sod installations in late September through December generally require less frequent watering due to cooler temperatures and reduced evaporation. However, all fresh sod installations—regardless of time of year—require consistent care and watering, particularly during the first year.

If you notice larger gaps forming between the strips of sod (beyond the normal seams), this is called sod shrinkage, and it's typically caused by lack of moisture. The good news is that with proper and consistent watering—following our Sod Watering Guide—shrinkage can be prevented or corrected. Over time, the sod will usually fill in these gaps as it continues to root and grow.

Fertilizer and Weed Treatments

To keep your sod healthy, vibrant, and free from weeds, pests, fungus, and other potential issues, it is essential to follow the specific care instructions provided for your sod installation, in addition to the recommendations outlined in the color-coded treatment chart.

Proper fertilization and timely treatment applications are critical for the long-term success of your lawn. Skipping or delaying these steps can negatively impact the health and appearance of your sod.

In the future, if you need to address general weed problems—or if weeds begin to encroach from neighboring areas or other parts of your property—consider using a selective herbicide that targets a broad range of weeds while remaining safe for turf when used as directed. One well-regarded option is a product that can be applied both pre- and post-emergence, is commonly used on new lawns, and is known for its effectiveness on hard-to-control weeds without harming desirable grass. For best results, apply when weeds are actively growing, and avoid application during extreme heat or drought stress. Always follow label instructions carefully, including recommendations for mixing, timing, and reapplication intervals. Products like this are typically available for purchase both locally and through various online retailers.

Mowing

New sod should not be mowed immediately after installation. In most cases, you should wait at least 2 to 3 weeks before the first mow.

Before mowing, ensure the sod has begun to root into the soil. To check, gently lift a corner of a sod piece. If it lifts easily with little to no resistance, the roots have not fully developed, and mowing should be delayed. If there is resistance and the sod remains firmly in place, the root system is establishing, and it is safe to mow.

When you do mow for the first time—and throughout the fall—always keep the mower deck on a high setting. This helps protect the new grass and supports strong root growth.

Use

Stay completely off your new sod for the first two weeks after installation, unless it is absolutely necessary. New sod needs time to establish its roots, and unnecessary disturbance can hinder this process.

After the first two weeks, limit yourself to light foot traffic for up to six weeks after installation—or longer, depending on how well the roots have established—and be especially careful during dry or wet conditions. If you must walk on the sod, try to use a different path each time to prevent damage to any one area. To protect the new lawn from others, consider marking the perimeter with stakes and string or tape to keep people and pets off the sod.

For the sod to withstand heavier foot traffic, you should wait at least six weeks under normal conditions, and longer if the roots have not fully established. Even once heavier foot traffic is allowed, continue to limit it, and keep pets from urinating on the sod for several months.

For properties with fresh dirt brought in, avoid using any equipment on the sod for at least a year, as the roots remain fragile and can be damaged easily. This is particularly important in the first year when the ground has not yet fully compressed and can cause ruts or damage.

Dog Urine and New Sod

New sod is particularly vulnerable to dog urine damage due to the shallow, delicate root system. The nitrogen and salts in dog urine can cause wilting and browning, and can even kill patches of the sod. As the roots are still near the surface, this damage is especially noticeable during the first few months after installation—and even longer if installed in the summer months.

To protect your new sod, try to minimize pet usage on the lawn until it has fully established, which can take a couple of months or more. If your pet does urinate on the sod, dilute the urine with water immediately to reduce potential damage.

Recommended Lawn Treatments Schedule

CLEGG & SONS' SOD FARMS

Recommended *Example of* Seasonal Lawn Treatments

WHEN TO APPLY:	Early Spring March – April	Late Spring May – June	Early Summer June – August	Early Fall September – October	Late Fall October – November
GOALS:	**Feed Grass Crabgrass Preventer Thicken Grass**	**Feed Grass Kill Weeds Thicken Grass**	**Feed Grass Insect Control Strengthen Against Heat**	**Feed Grass Promote Root Development Thicken Grass**	**Feed Grass Promote Root Development Prepare Grass for Dormancy**
ADDITIONAL NOTES:	In March, rake out yard very well before applying treatment.	Ensure yard is adequately irrigated. Be on the watch for any fungus and, if present, treat.	Ensure yard is adequately irrigated. Be on the watch for any fungus and, if present, treat.	Ensure yard is adequately irrigated. Be on the watch for any fungus and, if present, treat.	Ensure yard is adequately irrigated. Be on the watch for any fungus and, if present, treat.

Below are examples of products from a program to use or something similar to achieve the above goals.



Early Spring



Late Spring



Early Summer



Early Fall



Late Fall

Please Note: Clegg & Sons' Sod Farms, LLC does not endorse any specific lawn care brands for personal use and is not affiliated in any way with the manufacturer of any product mentioned. The recommendations provided are for general guidance only, and any product references are included solely for illustration purposes to demonstrate a sample treatment schedule. Please be sure to review the legal disclaimer on the last page.

Sod Care & Recommendations

The sod purchased from Clegg & Sons' Sod Farms, LLC is a blend of multiple Fescue and Bluegrass varieties, classified as a cool-season grass. This distinction is important when selecting lawn care programs or products tailored to the specific region and seasonal needs.

There are many excellent lawn care programs available both locally and online. These products are typically easy to use when applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. Always choose your products based on the appropriate season and regional climate where your lawn is located.

Important Guidelines:

- Always follow manufacturer instructions carefully. Over-application of fertilizers or treatments can damage your lawn.
- Daily sunlight and consistent watering are essential for healthy grass or sod.
- Routine lawn maintenance is necessary to prevent issues like fungus, pests, diseases, and weeds.
- Lawn health depends on proper soil aeration, nutrient levels, pH balance, and overall soil chemistry.

Ensuring these conditions will help maintain a lush, long-lasting lawn.

Legal Disclaimer

The information provided in this Sod Care Recommendations Guide and correlating Sod Watering Guide Recommendations is intended for general informational purposes only. It is not intended as, nor should it be considered, professional landscaping, agricultural, legal, or environmental advice.

As an agricultural sod producer, we offer recommendations based solely on our own experience with the specific varieties of sod we grow. Practices that work well for our sod may not apply to other grass types, climates, or conditions.

Lawn care and water usage practices can vary significantly based on regional climates, soil conditions, grass species, and local ordinances or restrictions. Before applying any methods or recommendations described in this guide, users are strongly encouraged to consult with local professionals or relevant municipal authorities to ensure compliance with applicable laws and suitability for their specific conditions.

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Any legal matters related to this guide will be handled under the laws of the State of Indiana. Even if the user is located in another state or country, only Indiana law will apply.