

SCOTLAND YARDS CARE GUIDE:

New Sod Care

FIRST 7-10 DAYS

Water early and often for the first 7 to 10 days (kind of like voting in Chicago), when watered properly, the sod will feel soft when walked on.

- In hot, dry weather, this will mean using the sprinkler on each area every day.
- In cool, moist weather, the sprinkler may be necessary only every other day, every third day or not at all, depending on the amount of rain.
- Proper watering completely moistens the sod, as well as penetrating the underlying soil at least a couple of inches. If too much water is applied, the sod becomes soggy and footsteps leave indentations.
- If the sod does not receive enough water, it will turn a light gray-green color as it wilts, then turn brown. With the proper amount of watering the ground will be a little soft, but still permit foot traffic.
- Make sure to create an overlapping pattern when watering, this will avoid dry spots, and pay particular attention to the edges, which dry out quickly.

TYPES OF EQUIPMENT YOU MIGHT NEED

Protect your investment by purchasing quality sprinklers and hoses. With proper care, both the sprinkler and the hose will last for years. Dane recommends the following equipment:

- × An Adjustable Oscillating Sprinkler
- × 2 Timers
- × 1 Adjustable Rotary Impulse Sprinkler
- × Enough hose to reach the furthest corner of the front and rear lawns
- × Small plastic shut offs to place between hose and the sprinkler

DANE'S HELPFUL TIPS

- *Try not to water by hand If you can use a sprinkler. Not many people have the time or patience required to hold a hose for the proper length of watering time.*
- *When setting sprinklers, start with the furthest point in the yard. You can move the sprinkler by pulling the hose in the direction you want to move the sprinkler instead of walking on a freshly watered area.*
- *Make sure to cover the corners and edges. Overlap settings so that there are no gaps in watering.*
- *Use timers to shut off the water, if you are not there to do it manually.*
- *To gauge how long it takes to water your lawn, use an old pie pan and set it under a sprinkler, and monitor how long it takes to apply one inch of water to the lawn.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What time of day is it best to water?

Watering early in the day allows the sun and wind to dry the grass blades while their roots are irrigated. Watering at night encourages disease because it spreads in damp conditions; dampness is more likely to linger at night. Less evaporation will occur if the watering is done during the day when is not hot and windy, so pay attention to the weather.

Some literature suggests that there is a danger of burning tender grass if watering is done in hot, sunny weather. Watch for watering restrictions, many municipalities have them, but they usually do not apply to new landscape planting.

When can our new sod be mowed?

After about 10 days to two weeks of continued, frequent watering, when the grass is approximately three inches high.

Are there any precautions to be aware of before the first mowing?

A high setting, about 2 ½", should be used on the mower, and be careful when mowing. Do not cut more than about 1 inch of new grass at this time. Use the grass catcher to collect clippings to avoid smothering the tender sod.

Do not to wait too long before the first mowing by allowing the grass to get too tall. By removing more than 1" of growth at this time, the grass can be damaged.

What about after the first cutting?

The sod now should have rooted. Watering can be reduced, but, make sure to keep the sod slightly moist until the fourth cutting. Now, after the fourth cutting, the sod can be treated like an established lawn.

The proper way to water an established lawn is to allow the ground to dry and then water fairly heavily. One inch of water per week, in the form of rain or use of a sprinkler, is about right. The best way to apply this water is in one or two applications instead of several light sprinklings.

By keeping the least amount of moisture on the surface of the grass will prevent shallow-rooted weeds to grow. Through deeper watering penetration, you encourage the grass roots to grow and seek moisture.

MYSCOTLANDYARDS.COM | 773-541-1932

