

Maintaining Your Sod for Years to Come

Fertilizer and Lime

There are many different brands of lawn fertilizer. It is important to remember to apply the right time of the year.

- Use the SOD method of application. Fertilize in September, October and December.
- Apply another application of fertilizer containing crabgrass control the end of March. A second application of crabgrass control is usually necessary.
- Virginia soil needs lime every year. Apply 50lbs./1000 sq. feet of lawn or in accordance with soil test recommendation.
- A soil test is recommended every 3 years. Test kits are available at local garden centers, or take a sample into your local Southern States.

More on Watering

- Grass needs 1 1/2 inches of water per week, more around trees.
- Roots follow water! Thorough, less frequent watering is best for healthy plant growth. Frequent shallow watering results in shallow roots.

Controlling Weeds

To maintain the weed free quality for your sod, use of chemical herbicides may be necessary from time to time. Consult your local garden center for the right product for your needs. Good maintenance programs described in this brochure will reduce your need for herbicides.

Crabgrass is always a problem in Virginia. It is produced each year from the seed of last year's plants. The seeds come from anywhere and everywhere, so it is necessary to treat each year – even if you didn't have problems last year. The best way to control crabgrass is to prevent the seeds from successfully germinating; therefore it is important to apply the control at the proper stage of germination. In our area, the best time to apply the crabgrass control is when the forsythia is fully bloomed. Products for this purpose are labeled as "Pre-Emergence Crabgrass Control"

A Word About Disease

Turf type tall fescues are resistant to most diseases, but are affected by a disease known as "brown patch". It occurs during hot, humid weather when night time temperatures stay above 70°. If you notice spotty brown patches under these conditions, consult your local garden center.

Sunlight

Tall Fescue Sod requires 4 hours of direct sunlight every day to maintain healthy growth. As trees grow, pruning of lower limbs will help provide the turf with necessary sunlight and air.

Repairing Damaged Areas

- Prevent thinning by removing leaves and evergreen needles in the fall.
- Areas damaged by physical means can be re-sodded or over seeded.
- In case of chemically damaged areas (oil spill, etc.) consult Brookmeade.
- Seed to match your sod can be purchased from us, plant seed in September.

Did You Know

Sod is Cool – 50% of the sun's heat striking the surface of the earth is eliminated in a sod lawn through transpiration. Sod also reduces sunlight glare.

Sod is Quiet – When tested sod surpassed a heavy, felt-padded carpet in its ability to quiet the low and high frequencies most annoying to the human ear.

Sod is Ecological – Sod prevents soil erosion from either wind or water, thereby helping soil retain its valuable water and mineral content. Dust stabilization value is reflected in indoor comfort and decreasing cleaning problems.

Sod is Safe and Healthy – A sod play area provides a cushion which reduces the shock and potential injury to players. 2000 sq. ft of sod produces enough oxygen for a family of four.



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The Brookmeade Sod Farm

Installation and Care of Turf Type Tall Fescue

Our own
South Anna Blend

