



Brookmeade Sod Farm, Inc.

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www.brookmeadesod.com

Member...



Installation and Care Guide Turf Type Tall Fescue

About Brookmeade

2008 marks Brookmeade Sod Farm's 40th Anniversary. We have been the leader in growing sod for Central Virginia since 1968. Operating from three farms, all of our sod is grown in Hanover County. We select seed varieties and use maintenance programs especially adapted to the climatic conditions of the Richmond metropolitan area. Brookmeade works closely with researchers at VA TECH which maintains test plots on our farm outside of Ashland. We are dedicated to providing our customers with the best varieties available. Turf Type Tall Fescue grasses are best for central Virginia's climate conditions and rainfall. Weather permitting, Fescue is harvested all year.

All of the sod grown at Brookmeade is highly cultivated and cared for from seed selection to harvest. This care guide will help you with preparation of your yard and assist you with keeping the grass healthy. If you have any questions, please give us call weekdays 8am - 4pm weather permitting.

Preparing the Soil

- Loosen soil to a depth of 4 inches
- Remove sticks, rocks, clods and any growth
- Must have good soil to soil contact when installing sod
- Level with rake and grade 3/4 inch below sidewalks & borders
- Add lime using a rate of 50lbs/1000 sq. feet of lawn
- Add starter fertilizer according to directions
- Soil preparation should be complete before the sod arrives

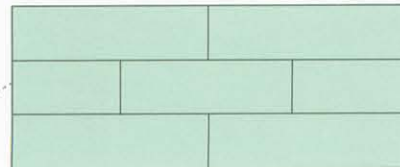
Measuring for Sod

- Divide area into rectangles as nearly as possible
- Measure Length x Width in Feet for **Square Footage**
- Divide **Square Footage** by 9 to convert into **Square Yards**
- Each roll of sod is 16" wide and 81" long (1 sq. yard)
- You can measure areas separately and add totals
- The sod can be cut easily to fit your area
- Add 5% for trimming and areas of unusual shape
- Call if you need help - we will come out and measure for you

Installing the Sod

We install Sod all year - weather permitting. Sod should be installed immediately after delivery - **within 12 hours during warm weather**. In cooler weather it will keep longer. **It is not recommended to install sod in temperatures 85° or above.** If you must sod during the summer, installation should be planned for the cooler hours of early morning or late evening.

- Start at the longest, straightest edge, complete this row before starting the next
- Stagger the joints in a brick pattern



- Do not overlap or leave spaces between strips
- Trim around sidewalks and borders with a sharp shovel
- You may roll or tamp the sod to press out air pockets
- On slopes, run sod up and down. If a slope will be difficult to push a lawnmower over it will need to be pinned. Use 3 pins per roll, available at Brookmeade
- Top and root growth begin immediately - sod should be rooted in 10-14 days

Water! Water! Water!

Nearly all sod failures are due to poor watering practices! Watering not only provides nourishment and cooling to the plant, it also settles the sod to the soil preventing further water loss.

| Temperature | 32° - 60° | 60° - 85° | 85° and above |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| When to Start Watering | Day of Installation | Within 20 Minutes of First Roll Installed | Water Each Roll as it is Put Down |
| How Often to Water | Every Other Day for Two Weeks | Once a Day for Two Weeks | Twice a Day for Two Weeks |
| How Much Water at Each Application | 1/2 inch | 1/2 inch | 1/2 inch |

Mowing Tips



- New sod will need to be mowed about 7 days after installation.
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in a single mowing.
- Mow Fescue to 3 inches (the tall setting on your mower).
- Keep your blades sharp for healthy grass and good appearance.
- Remove clippings if they are heavy enough to cover the grass.

Traffic on Sod

- Stay off sod that is extremely wet or on a slope.
- Use sod sparingly until well rooted - 2 to 3 weeks.
- Avoid concentrated play, dog traffic and rough use for 4 weeks.

