

01 / GET THE SITE READY

Preparation and installation

Fill this in with your installer before delivery. A new lawn starts with the ground beneath it.

Grass species / cultivar: _____

Installation date: _____ Sod area: _____ sq ft

Caretaker / backup: _____

Installer / supplier phone: _____

Before the first pallet arrives

- ☐ Confirm grass suitability, cultivar, area and agreed cutting allowance.
- ☐ Complete soil testing; record amendments, nutrients and weed treatments.
- ☐ Remove old turf and debris; prepare the rooting bed and final grade.
- ☐ Address drainage and mark utilities, irrigation and other private lines.
- ☐ Test sprinkler coverage, hoses, pressure and water access.
- ☐ Confirm delivery, crew readiness, access and daily care responsibility.

Installation day walkthrough

- ☐ Inspect fresh sod; photograph and report concerns promptly.
- ☐ Check close-fitting staggered seams, soil contact and completed edges.
- ☐ Water promptly; inspect moisture beneath representative pieces.
- ☐ Obtain aftercare, product restrictions and warranty terms.

Installer watering instructions: _____

02 / MONITOR THE ROOTS

Your first-month care schedule

Day ranges are check-in windows, not guaranteed readiness. Dormant or cold-weather sod may need much longer. Roots, moisture and firmness determine progress.

Installation day

- ☐ Wet the sod and soil interface; inspect several spots beneath the surface.
- ☐ Confirm coverage at edges, slopes and between sprinkler patterns.

Days 1-7: protect moisture and contact

- ☐ Check morning and midday; add checks in heat, wind or exposed areas.
- ☐ Keep the interface moist without prolonged puddles or runoff.
- ☐ Keep play, pets and heavy traffic off; address drying or saturation early.

Days 8-14: assess anchoring

- ☐ Gently check a few edges for resistance and look for active growth.
- ☐ Lengthen intervals gradually only as rooting and moisture allow.
- ☐ If still loose or declining, reassess and contact the installer.

Days 15-30 and beyond: transition when ready

- ☐ Mow only when anchored, firm underfoot, and tall enough to need cutting.
- ☐ Use the grass-specific height; remove no more than about one-third.
- ☐ Resume use gradually; move toward established watering and nutrition.

Next check: _____ First mowing confirmed: _____

Do not fertilize or apply weed products by day count. Follow the soil/grass plan and label. Seek help for rapid decline, sliding pieces or persistent saturation.

Moisture and care log

Record rain, watering, interface moisture and actions. Adjust the plan instead of repeating a fixed sprinkler setting.

Care changes / questions: _____

When established: follow the species calendar and subtract useful rainfall. New sod needs its establishment plan first.

References: NC State Carolina Lawns and species calendars; Clemson Lawn Establishment. The online guide includes linked sources and full care tables.