



JOHNSTON
- Seed Co -

SOD INSTALLATION & CARE GUIDE

BERMUDAGRASS & FESCUE

LANDRUN
BERMUDAGRASS
SOD



TURF SAVER[®]
Rhizomatous Tall Fescue

QUALITY SOD & QUALITY SERVICE

Choosing the Sod that is right for you

RTF Fescue

Rhizomatous Tall Fescue is a cool season turf grass that withstands shade better than Zoysia and Bermuda. The RTF Fescue will spread by Rhizomes underneath the ground once it becomes mature. This is important because it is basically self-repairing when small areas are damaged. Even though it is tolerant to shade, it will still require a minimum of three hours of sun per day. That can be direct sun or lightly filtered sunlight. Installation of Fescue sod can be installed September 1 through May 31. Over seeding can be done in the Fall if sod is damaged in the Spring.

Bermuda

Bermuda is a warm season turf that is widely grown in the Southern United States. It spreads aggressively once mature. It cannot tolerate shade as it requires 8 hours of sun per day. It will turn brown and go completely dormant at first killing frost in the Fall. It will come out of dormancy when soil temperature is consistently 60 degrees in the Spring.

How much Sod should I order?

Try to layout the area to be sodded in a simple rectangle. Multiply the length by the width to determine the total square footage. If there is odd shaped areas, try and divide those areas into smaller sections (rectangles) and add the square foot of each.

Preparing the site for Sod installation

1. Soil sample analysis! Send in a soil sample to see if any amendments are needed for your soil. Apply Lime if pH is acidic or Phosphorus and Potassium if deficient.
2. If area is compacted, loosen areas 2-3 inches deep before laying sod. This is done by possible light tillage. Rake after tillage to make any improvements to grade prior to installing sod.
3. Remove any unwanted vegetation, mechanically preferred over any kind of herbicide. If you must use herbicide, follow the label regarding planting restrictions after application.

Tips on laying your new Sod

1. Start laying sod on the perimeter of the area you wish to sod.
2. Lay sod within your perimeter starting with the longest straight line first. Push the sod edges together tightly. Remember, it will take a while to fill in gaps if they are left. The area will be extremely unlevel if gaps are not addressed. Cut sod with a shovel or machete.
3. If sod is to be laid on a slope, lay pieces across the face of the slope and stagger joints.
4. On Bermuda only, it may be beneficial to compact the sod with a yard roller. This will help the roots of the sod to better come in contact with the soil.

Fertilization of new Sod

If a soil sample has been taken, follow recommendations. If a sample has not been taken, you may want to incorporate 50 lb. per 10,000 sq. ft. of 10-20-10 or 13-13-13 fertilizer. Try to incorporate into the soil prior to laying sod either mechanically or through watering. Do not lay sod on top of broadcast fertilizer as there could be damage to roots of the sod. One month after soil is laid, apply a nitrogen fertilizer on the sod. Products like 46-0-0, 21-0-0-24, or 28-3-4 can be applied at the rate of 1-2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. if there is adequate water available.

Watering New Sod

After installing new sod, WATERING IS A MUST TO INSURE SUCCESS! After installation, apply approximately 1 inch of rainfall equivalent to the area. After initial watering, water light and frequent (2-3 times a day) until the sod becomes attached to the soil. At that point, you can begin watering heavier, less often to encourage roots to penetrate deeper. See Johnston Seed Company's, watering sod brochure for more information.

NOTE: If installing sod in temperatures 90 degrees or above, the sod may go through a "shock period" and yellow. Water heavy initially, then switch to often and lighter to green sod back up. If installing sod in the Winter, keep sod wet to insure roots remain in contact with the soil.