When purchasing turfgrass, consult a member of Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) in your area to be assured that you are getting the finest quality turfgrass available. A listing of turfgrass producers in your area is available by visiting www.TurfGrassSod.org.

Step-By-Step Turfgrass Installation:

1. SOIL & SITE PREPARATION

Refer to Soil and Site Preparation on the reverse

2. MEASURING & ORDERING

With a tape, measure the area of your planned lawn. Include these measurements on a sketch of the lawn area, with the length, width, and any unusual features. Your local TPI member will be happy to assist you in determining the amount of turfgrass sod you will need based on your sketch.

Schedule your turfgrass delivery after you have completed your soil and site prep and are ready to install the turfgrass. Prompt installation on the day of delivery is crucial.



Prepare the Soil

"Enhance a lawn's ultimate beauty and success by improving the soil before the installation takes place."

Why Is Good Soil Important?

For optimum growth, turfgrass needs just four things (in the proper balance) . . . sunlight, air, water and nutrients. Reduce any of these, or provide too much of any one and the turfgrass will suffer or die. In the right proportions, turfgrass will flourish, providing beauty to the landscape, a clean and safe place to play, plus many other benefits.

Grass obtains three of the four essential factors (air, water and nutrients) from the soil, but many soils are less than ideal for growing grass. Some soils contain too much clay and may be compacted. While compacted soils may be great for roads they are bad for grass. If air and water are not available to the roots it will inhibit the growth of the grass. Other soils may have too much sand. While sand may be beautiful on a beach, too much sand in the soil will prevent water and nutrients from staying in the root zone long enough for the plant to use them. Another frequently observed problem with many soils is the pH. The pH scale measures how acidic or basic a substance is. If the degree of acidity or alkalinity in the soil is too high or too low it can effect the availability of nutrients to the plant and prevent optimum growth.

What is The Best Soil for Turfgrass?

Loams, sandy loams and loamy sands, with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0 are the very best soils for producing a beautiful, high-use, low maintenance lawn. Unfortunately, this ideal soil mixture is seldom found on any property after construction.

Turfgrass Installation (cont d)

3. TURFGRASS INSTALLATION

Prior to installing your turfgrass sod moisten the soil and install your lawn immediately upon delivery.



In hot weather, protect unlaid turf by placing stacks or rolls in the shade. If possible, cover with a moist cloth, or lightly water the unprotected turf.

Begin installing turf along the longest straight line, such as a driveway, sidewalk or patio. Butt and push edges and ends against each other tightly, without stretching. Avoid gaps or overlaps. Stagger joints in each row in a brick-like fashion, using



a large sharp knife to trim corners, edges, etc. Avoid leaving small strips at outer edges as they will not retain moisture. On slopes, place the turf pieces so they run across the slope rather than up and down the slope.

Prepare the Soil (cont d)

The absolute minimum depth of quality top soil for

a care-free lawn is 4 inches (10 cm); however, for

deeper root penetration and the benefits that they

Not only can most soils be improved, they usually

need to be improved to get maximum results with

The knowledge of what is necessary, the amount,

and availability of materials, immediate costs and

time are all factors that typically deter people from

Proper soil improvement and site preparation

before any planting takes place, will make it easier

bring, the accepted standard is 6 inches (15 cm).

How Deep Should The Soil Be ?

Can Soils be Improved?

taking steps to improve soil.

only minimum effort.

Turfgrass Installation (cont d)

To avoid causing indentations or air pockets avoid repeated walking or kneeling on the turf while it is being installed or just after watering.

After installing the turfgrass, roll the entire area to improve turfgrass/soil contact and remove air pockets



4. WATERING

Give your new lawn at least 1-inch (2-3 cm) of and deeper watering should begin.

Weather conditions will dictate the amount and frequency of watering. Be certain that your new lawn has enough moisture to survive hot, dry, or windy periods. Water areas near buildings more

During the first few weeks, avoid heavy or ensures the turf will remain smooth.

Prepare the Site

Step-By-Step Site Preparation:

Follow these simple steps for a beautiful, healthy and trouble-free lawn:

- 1. Clear the site of all building materials (wood, cement, bricks, etc.) as well as any buried stumps, rocks, stones or other debris that are any larger than 2 inches (4-5 cm) in diameter.
- 2. Rough grade the entire area to eliminate any drainage problems on the property. This would include sloping the grade away from building foundations, eliminating or reducing severe slopes and filling low-lying areas. A tractor mounted blade and/or box are most often used for rough



grading, but if the area is small, it can be done with hand tools. The rough grading, will probably uncover more debris that should be removed.

3. Initial tilling to a depth of at least 2 inches (5 cm), should be completed prior to adding any topsoil or soil amendments. This will control most annual weeds, alleviate subsoil compaction, permit a bonding of the topsoil to the subsoil and improve root penetration as well as air exchange and water movement.

Turfgrass Installation Guide

Turfgrass Lawn Guide

Soil Preparation Site Preparation Turfgrass Installation





Prepare the Site (cont d)

4. Add topsoil to achieve a total topsoil depth of



4-6 inches (10-15cm), after firming. The topsoil should be a loamy sand, sandy loam, clay loam, loam, silt loam, sandy clay loam or other soil suitable for the

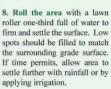
5. Test soil for Ph and nutrients to determine if any pH correcting materials or nutrients are required.

Acidic soils A pH of less than 6 can be improved with the addition of lime. The type (or source) and amount applied will be determined by the level of acidity and should be based on the recommendations of a professional.

Alkaline soils A pH of 8 and higher can be improved with sulphur. As with acidic soil correcting materials, the type and amount of materials needed will be determined by the level of alkalinity and should be based on a professional s recom-

- 6. Apply fertilizer to correct any deficiencies following the product s recommended rate. To avoid root injury to new turfgrass, the fertilizer should be raked into the top 3-4 inches (7-10 cm).
- 7. Finish grade the entire site, maintaining the rough grading contours and slopes, with a tractormounted box blade for large areas or a heavy-duty





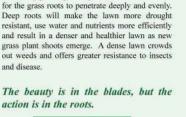




water within a half hour of installation. Water daily or more often, keeping turf moist until it is firmly rooted (about 2 weeks). Then less frequent

often where reflected heat dries turfgrass.

concentrated use of your new lawn. This gives the roots an opportunity to grow into the soil and



The beauty is in the blades, but the action is in the roots.

