

Sod Care Guide



Sod will soon be installed on your property. The information below outlines the installation process and best practices you can take to promote healthy establishment of your new sod.

The contractor is responsible for maintaining the new sod for the first 45 days after installation. After the contractor's 45-day maintenance period, ownership and maintenance of the new sod is turned over to the property owner. Neither the City or the contractor will replace sod that dies or deteriorates after the 45-day maintenance period, and the future health of the sod is the property owner's responsibility.

Contractor's Responsibility

During the 45-Day Maintenance Period

Watering

- The contractor is responsible for watering new sod; however, property owners are encouraged to support the establishment of the new sod by watering as well.
- During the first week after the sod is installed, the sod should be watered lightly 2-3 times per day as needed to keep sod moist, until the sod is rooted. The sod is rooted when it cannot be hand pulled away from the ground.
- After the first week, 1/3" of water should be applied every other day. It is generally better to water for fewer days per week to encourage deeper root growth.
- Watering early in the day is best as less water is lost to evaporation and more is absorbed into the soil.

Mowing

- It is recommended that property owners do not mow new sod until after the 45-day maintenance period.



Property Owner's Responsibility

After the 45-Day Maintenance Period

Watering

- Continue applying 1/3" of water every other day and early in the day.



Mowing

- Before mowing, let the grass grow to a minimum height of 4".
 - For most of the season, a mowing height of 2.5" to 3" is best.
 - During summer stresses, the mowing height should be raised 1/2" to 3" to 3.5". Raising the mowing height provides more insulation from summer heat and reduces water loss.
- Avoid mowing when the weather is hot (above 85° F) and/or dry as newly cut grass loses water quickly.
- Do not cut more than 1/3 of the grass height in a single mowing event.

For questions, please email the City of Apple Valley Public Works Department at pubworks@applevalleymn.gov or call (952) 953-2400.