

2023 Street & Utility Improvements

Sod Care Instructions



Sod Care

Once the sod is in place, we ask for your help to ensure successful establishment. **Please avoid walking or driving on your new sod for the first three weeks and follow the care instructions below.**

The Contractor will be responsible for maintaining the sod for the first 30 days after installation. During this time, they will monitor the sod and water as needed. If you notice the sod is drying out during the 30-day maintenance period, please let Wade Bartz know.

You will be responsible for watering and maintenance of your sod after the 30-day maintenance period expires.

After the 30 days are up, sod conditions will be reviewed, and any deficiencies will be addressed before final acceptance. If you notice problems with the placement and/or condition of your new sod, please contact Wade Bartz immediately. After the sod has been accepted, sod care becomes the property owner's responsibility. If the sod dies later, it is a result of improper maintenance and will not be replaced by the contractor or city. There should be minimal maintenance required by the property owner this fall, due to the timing of sod placement. However, sod maintenance will be needed for the next couple of years to ensure a healthy lawn.

Note: It can take multiple years before the sod root system is fully established and tolerant of summer conditions.

MOWING - Sod placed this Fall should not be mowed until spring, 2024. To ensure successful turf establishment, it is very important not to mow the sod too short for the first couple of years. While mowing, set the mower deck at least 3-inches high or at the highest setting. Do not cut more than a third of the plant off at a time. The leaf blades are all that remains for the plant to live until the root system has had time to fully establish itself in your yard. It is important to use caution when mowing the sod for the first couple of years. Remember it is better to have long green grass than short brown grass and dirt.

WATERING - You will be responsible for watering and maintenance of your sod after the 30-day maintenance period expires. New sod roots take **multiple** years to reach full length. During this time frame, it is recommended to water your lawn two or three times a week for a total of 1-inch. This can be reduced of course when it rains. To check if you are watering enough, place a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then measure the water depth in the container. Multiply the amount of water in inches by the number of times you water each week to total 1-inch per week.

The City mailed out letters to residents explaining how to receive a credit on your utility bills while you are watering your new sod. If you have any questions about this, please contact City Hall.

FERTILIZING / WEED CONTROL - It is recommended to apply a balanced turf fertilizer next Spring. In doing so, you should use a rotary spreader. Do not over fertilize as it could damage the sod.

Herbicides should not be applied until late spring / early summer while temperatures are cooler. Avoid applying herbicides during hot and dry conditions. As with all lawns, herbicides are recommended to control unwanted weeds. Consult with your local specialist regarding the recommended lawn maintenance schedule for fertilizer placement, herbicide treatment, aeration, and dethatching.

Following these steps will restore your lawn to its prior condition as quickly as possible. This will take a little time and patience, and we thank you for both.