

# K.S. Design Group, Inc.

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## Landscape Design/Build Contractor

### How to care for your new sod.....

To keep your sod looking it's best, please follow the recommendations below. Please go to our website [www.landscapekit.com](http://www.landscapekit.com) for complete maintenance information.

#### Watering schedule for sod and seed

##### Sod

- 1) Watering must be started immediately after the sod is installed. *Watering should begin as soon as an area large enough to put down a sprinkler is ready.* This way you can get started watering while the rest of the sod is being installed. **WE WILL DO THE INITIAL WATERING!**
- 2) *It is essential that enough water is put down the first time to thoroughly soak the sod and the soil under the sod.* You can check the moisture content by lifting up a flap of the sod and sticking your finger into the soil. It should be moist several inches deep. By giving the sod a heavy first watering, you will rid the sodded area of air pockets, which dries out the sod.
- 3) After the first watering, water enough to keep the soil under the sod moist, not muddy. Do not walk on the new sod until after 2<sup>nd</sup> mowing. ***In very hot weather, you may have to water 2 times daily. Do not allow the sod or soil underneath to dry out between waterings. Ideal watering periods are early mornings and/or early evening.***
- 4) ***Pay special attention to the corners and edges of newly sodded areas,*** they tend to dry out sooner and they are hard to water properly. You may have to hand water these areas.
- 5) If a newly sodded area accidentally does dry out, it will probably turn brown. *It is not dead, and will green up in about two weeks with PROPER water applications.*
- 6) In about two weeks, the sod should have begun to knit to the soil underneath and the watering can be lessened to once or twice per week depending on weather conditions. ***Water anytime the sod has a dry pale blue gray color or if the grass does not spring back after walking on it.***
- 7) ***No mower traffic until time for first mowing.*** Turn off irrigation 2 days prior to first mowing. Test mow a small area to insure no movement of ground or sod.
- 8) **There should be No foot traffic until after 2<sup>nd</sup> mowing or when grade beneath new sod is stable.** *It is important to know that frequent shallow waterings are not good for your lawn.* They cause the root system to grow near the surface. You may water less often, but ***water deeply.*** Over time, the roots will follow the water down into the soil and you will have lush healthy turf.

##### Seed

- 1) Insure no pre-emergent crabgrass control is used on newly seeded areas.
- 2) Seed must be kept moist to promote germination. After the first watering, water enough to keep the soil moist, not muddy. In very hot weather, you may have to water more than once a day. Do not allow the seed or soil underneath to dry out between waterings. Ideal watering periods are early mornings and/or early evening.
- 3) It is essential that enough water is put down the first time to thoroughly soak the seed and the soil under it. You can check the moisture content by sticking your finger into the soil. It should be moist several inches deep.
- 4) In about two weeks, the watering can be lessened to two or three times per week depending on the weather conditions.
- 5) Wait until after the second mowing at a minimum before applying any selective herbicides/fertilizers.

##### Mowing your new lawn

About two weeks after installation, your new lawn may need mowing. It is important to let your lawn dry out for a day or two so it firms up a bit before going over it with a heavy machine. Make sure that the mowing height is set at about 3". Letting your lawn grow a little longer is good for the grass because it encourages a strong root system. Never mow the sod/seed installed by KS Design shorter than 2" and never remove more than 1/3 of the grass leaf at any one mowing. Using a mulching mower is a great idea. It returns the clippings to the lawn so they can decompose and provide added nutrients.

**YOUR NEW SOD HAS BEEN  
INSTALLED! PLEASE FOLLOW  
WATERING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE  
REVERSE BEGINNING TODAY!**