

Sodding

Plan Symbol



Description

Sodding is transplanting vegetative sections of plant materials to promptly stabilize areas that are subject to erosion. Use commercial sod which is a cultured product utilizing specific grass species.

When and Where to Use It

Sodding is appropriate for any graded or cleared area that may erode, and where a permanent, long-lived plant cover is immediately needed. Examples of where sodding is used are yards, buffer zones, streambanks, dikes, swales, slopes, outlets, level spreaders, and filter strips.

Installation

In general, do not use sod on slopes greater than 2H:1V or 3H:1V if it is to be mowed. If sod is placed on steep slopes, lay it with staggered joints and/or staple the sod down.

Clear the soil surface of trash, debris, roots, branches and soil clods in excess of 2-inches length or diameter. Rake soil surface to break crust just before laying sod or irrigate soil lightly if the soil is dry. Do not install sod on hot, dry or frozen soil, gravel, compacted clay, or pesticide treated soils.

Harvest, deliver and install sod within a period of 36-hours. Store rolls of sod in shade during installation. Sod should be free of weeds and be of uniform thickness, about 1-inch, and should have a dense root mat for mechanical strength.

Lay strips of sod beginning at the lowest area to be sodded with the longest dimension of the strip perpendicular to the slope, and stagger in a brick-like pattern. Wedge strips securely in place. Square the ends of each strip to provide for a close, tight fit. Match angled ends correctly to prevent voids.

Roll or compact immediately after installation to ensure firm contact with the underlying topsoil.

Irrigate the sod until the soil is wet to a depth of 2-inches, and keep moist until grass takes root.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Watering may be necessary after planting and during periods of intense heat and/or lack of rain (drought). Keep soil moist to a depth of 2-inches until sod is fully rooted.
- Mow to a height of 2 to 3 inches after sod is well-rooted (2-3 weeks). Do not remove more than 1/3 of the shoot in any one mowing.
- Permanent, fine turf areas require yearly applications of fertilizer and lime.
- Inspect the sod frequently after it is first installed, especially after large storm events, until it has established a permanent cover.



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Preventive Measures and Troubleshooting Guide

Field Condition	Common Solutions
Drought	Keep soil moist to a depth of 2-inches until sod is fully rooted