

MAINTENANCE GUIDE

COOL SEASON TURF



GROUND PREPARATION PRIOR TO TURFING

Remove most of the vegetation. If there is Kikuyu, couch or other difficult to eradicate grasses, then one or two applications of a glyphosate based spray maybe necessary. Rotary Hoe the soil 100mm deep and level with a rake removing stones, roots and hard clods as you go. If there are any hard areas, it pays to deep rip the ground first. Hard areas will prevent moisture and root penetration, which in the long run makes grass require more water. If you have clay soil we highly recommend that you apply gypsum to the soil at a rate of 1kg to 1m². If the soil is poor or you need to add extra soil to bring your ground preparation up the right height, we recommend you use a good quality turf underlay which will be available from your local sand and soil provider. If laying your new turf adjacent to a footpath, leave the prepared soil 25-30mm below the concrete, this will give you a professional looking finish.



WATERING

Watering should start as soon as possible after the turf is laid. You will need to apply enough water to wet the turf and saturate the soil underneath. For the first two weeks you should apply short, regular watering to keep the turf moist on the top, as the turf has no roots to draw the moisture up from the underneath topsoil. For the rule of thumb of watering your new turf refer to your watering guide but a few things to watch for: - if your turf is not getting enough water, the leaf will curl up, look finer and start to get a grey tinge to it. If you see this at any stage you need to start watering immediately and if your newly laid turf starts to get gaps in between the rolls it means you are not watering enough as the turf will shrink if it is allowed to dry out in the first 10 to 14 days.



MOWING

Mowing should start about two weeks after the turf has been laid, by just taking the tip off the new lawn. The level can be brought down on each of the following cuts till the grass is no shorter than 50mm. Mowing a cool season grass any shorter than this will damage your turf and it will eventually die. Mower blades also need to be sharpened regularly to give your lawn a smooth cut and to prevent the leaf being shredded which leads to bruising of the leaf and also lose of moisture out of the leaf.


Important Things to Remember...

- The better ground preparation the less maintenance the lawn will require.
- Watering should start as soon as turf is laid.
- Keep mower blade sharp.
- Everyday 5m² of lawn provides enough oxygen for one person for a day.

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FERTILISING



Fertiliser should initially be applied to your soil prior to laying your turf and should then be followed up with applications ever three or four months. A good quality fertiliser should be used, we use and recommend Turfblend, an Incitec fertiliser but anything similar would be fine. You will need to use about 5 kg for every 100m² and it will need to be spread as evenly as possible preferably with a spreader. A good watering will be needed within an hour of application to dissolve the fertiliser into the soil. A nitrogen fertiliser may need to be applied annually if your lawn colour and leaf growth is lacking. Urea is good for this purpose but be careful as it can burn your lawn if applied too generously to the area and make sure you water in straight away making sure you use enough water to dissolve the fertilizer.

PESTS




The main pest problem in the Central West and the Blue Mountains is the lawn grub usually the African Black Beetle Grub. These only become a problem when they are in plague numbers. The lawn grub damages the lawn by eating the roots away from just below the surface, leaving the lawn to eventually die from water stress. One of the first signs that you may have an infestation is a larger than normal amount of bird life on your lawn. Another sign to look for - the lawns browning off when you know that you have watered it enough, if this happens always try to pull on the grass if it comes up in your hand easily you have a problem. Lawn grubs can be controlled by insecticides which are available from nurseries and garden centres. Always make sure you read the instructions carefully and follow all safety instructions. The main thing you must do is keep the damaged areas wet as it is like having new turf.

Important Things to Remember...

- Don't be tempted to mow the lawn too short.
- Don't forget to fertilize your lawn regularly.
- Regular maintenance will result in a healthy lush lawn.

WEEDS



Broadleaf weeds and clover are the main weeds that you may come up against. These can easily be eradicated, look for chemicals that contain the following active ingredient: - Clover – Dicamba, Bindi – MCPA, Summer Grass – DSMA and Winter Grass – Endothal. Always use chemicals at the rates shown on the package and always follow safety instructions.

FUNGI

A fungus is not usually a big problem in the cool season grasses but it can happen. It usually develops during warm, humid and wet weather with the first sign being brown or sick looking patches of grass. If they are found early, they are easily eradicated, with the use of a broad-spectrum fungicide. These are available at your local nursery or garden centre. Make sure you read instructions carefully for the correct application and again follow all safety instructions.