

Planning and Preparing

- Decide where decks, paths and flower beds will be located
- Remove old sod, soil and debris
- Establish a grade that slopes away from the house
- Level and smooth the surface
- Spread 12 – 20 cm of topsoil or loam mixed with peat moss
- Mix in lawn fertilizer (10-30-10)
- Pack soil lightly

Sodding

Advantages

- Quick and relatively easy installation
- Instant lawn
- Doesn't wash away on a slope
- Can be laid from spring into fall

Disadvantages

- More expensive than seeding
- Limited grass selection

Installation

- Calculate the area of the lawn in square metres
- Determine the number of rolls of sod required (sold by the square metre)
- Install within 2 days of delivery to prevent drying out or decomposition
- Lay sod in a pattern like bricks with seams staggered
- Begin at a straight edge (e.g. sidewalk)
- Butt edges snugly and trim to fit with a sharp knife (a curved linoleum knife works well)
- Kneel on a board to prevent damaging sod
- Tamp down high spots and fill low spots
- Water thoroughly
- Keep moist until new growth is established

Seeding

Advantages

- Less expensive than sod
- Greater variety of grass types

Disadvantages

- Time and effort needed to maintain moisture level
- Needs protection from traffic
- May wash away on slopes
- Mid-summer is usually too hot and dry for seeding

Installation

- Choose seed appropriate for climate and conditions (e.g., sun/shade)
- Plant in spring or fall (mid-August to mid-September)
- Calculate area of the lawn (see “Sodding”) and determine the number of seed packages needed (coverage is listed on packages)
- Spread seed using a drop or broadcast spreader set at half the recommended rate and apply in two right angled passes to ensure coverage
- Rake lightly
- Cover with burlap in windy or sloped areas just until seeds sprout, then remove immediately
- Keep damp until seeds germinate (14 – 21 days) using a sprinkler or soft spray hose nozzle to prevent puddles
- Water longer and less often as lawn grows
- Cut back to 1” when new lawn is 2” high
- Pull weeds after cutting; do not use chemical herbicides on new lawn
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