

Sod Replacement Guidelines and Maintenance

New sod will be installed to restore yards disturbed with the project. Sod installed with the project will be maintained by the contractor for the first 30 days only. City staff will inspect the sod at the end of the 30-day period and have the contractor replace any dead sod. After this initial 30 days, maintenance and care of the sod will be the responsibility of the property owner. Neither the contractor nor the City will be responsible for replacing dead sod once it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain. Below are some guidelines to help care for new sod.

General Guidelines

- While the contractor is responsible for sod maintenance for the first 30 days, property owners are encouraged to provide additional assistance if needed to help ensure the long-term success of the sod. This includes watering if you notice the sod is drying out in between days of the contractor's watering.
- It is also important for residents to not mow during the first 30 days.
- Avoid walking on the new sod for the first couple of weeks after installation as much as possible.
- Be patient, areas of damaged sod will often recover.
- It may take a few growing seasons before the sod is fully established to the hearty condition of the rest of the yard.
- Property owners are exempt from odd-even watering restrictions for the first 30 days after installation of new sod. Property owners must still follow the noon to 5 p.m. watering ban.

Watering (Property Owner Responsibility After the First 30 Days)

- Mature lawns typically require 1 inch of water per week. New sod often requires twice as much, or 2 inches of water per week, over multiple applications to become established.
- Water until soil is saturated to a depth of 6-8 inches. Soil should be completely wet under new sod.
- Water more during warm, dry, or windy weather to keep your sod continually moist.

Mowing (Property Owner Responsibility After the First 30 Days)

- Do not mow until sod reaches 6 inches or is fully rooted.
- When mowing new sod, mow to a minimum height of 3 ½ inches. This may be a higher setting than what is used for the rest of the lawn.
- Letting sod grow long helps develop a deeper root system, increasing its heat and drought tolerance.

Fertilizing (Property Owner Responsibility the Next Growing Season)

- Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until next spring. If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.
- When you do fertilize, use a phosphorus-free fertilizer (i.e. 15-0-0, middle number is phosphorus and should be zero) and follow the manufacturer's instructions on application rates.

