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NEW SOD INSTALL & MAINTENANCE

Preparation & Install: Cultivate the soil that will become the foundation for the new sod. Add 1-2" of fresh top-soil and rake in 1/2" of Compressed Peat Moss or 2-3 lbs of granular starter fertilizer per 1,000 square feet (**water the fertilizer in before rolling the sod on top**). We recommend using **Garden Center Pros 12-8-4** or **Andersons 18-12-6**. Lay the sod rolls on top of your soil, while staggering the joints. Make sure each joint meets the other, but does not overlap. Roll the sod after laying to ensure proper soil contact.

Watering: Watering is the most important step of the sod care process. Turfgrass is very demanding of water whether it is new or established. Watering new sod is essential to initiate root development, however existing turf still requires a minimum of 1" of water per week from *March-October* to stay dark green and healthy. Watering times vary depending on the time of the year and temperature. During the hottest part of the summer (June-August), turf needs to be watered more than 1" of water per week. If in doubt, water your lawn! Make sure to water each new piece of sod thoroughly, especially the edges, as they dry out faster than the center. **Immediately after sod is laid, water each section as follows:**

- Three times/day for the first 4 days for 20-30 min/section
- Two times/day for the next 3 days for 20-30 min/section
- One time/day for 2 weeks after for 20-30 min/section
- Every other day for 2 weeks after for 20-30 min/section

Traffic: Stay off new sod for 2-3 weeks after installation. Heavy foot traffic should be avoided, except for moving sprinklers. Play activities by children & adults should be avoided and try to minimize pet activity.

Fertilizing: A granular lawn fertilizer should be applied before and 4-6 weeks after installation. We recommend using the **Andersons Professional Grade 4-step Lawn Fertilizer Program**, which can be purchased anytime at our Garden Center. **Andersons Grub Control** and **Andersons Prophecy** should be applied in June to prevent grub damage and fungal growth throughout the year. Key fertilizer application dates are **Step 1-Easter, Step 2-Memorial Day, Step 3-Labor Day, and Step 4-Halloween**. **Schedule varies by climatic conditions**

For more information on Plant Care or the Andersons Fertilizer Program, please visit the resources page of our website at.....

www.jimmelkalandscaping.com/Resources/