

can generally tolerate more damage like that caused by insect feeding, since they can replace the damaged sections of turf.

To Seed or to Sod



When deciding whether to use seed or lay sod (strips of grass cut away from where they grew) to establish a lawn, you must consider several important factors. Sod is certainly an easy way to achieve an instant lawn;

however, it is more expensive than seeding a lawn and, like grass seed, it still requires daily watering after you have placed it to ensure that it becomes established.

The available grass varieties in sod may not be the best for the conditions where you live or may not suit your preference, while grass seed presents a greater selection. Until grass is established, it is at risk for competition from other plants (weeds) for space and resources. You may want to choose sod if an area has a high weed presence or potential, since it can smother many weeds. Unfortunately, it may also introduce them, along with insects and diseases.

When laying sod, place the pieces so that the seams line up at the middle of adjacent pieces. Don't stretch the pieces and don't overlap the edges. If your lawn has a slope, lay the sod across it rather than up and down it. Once the sod is in place, use a roller to go over it to press the roots into the soil. Keep your new sod well watered and don't walk on it while it is still wet.

If you decide to use seed, choose the best possible grass cultivar or mixture for your site, and seed your lawn after the early spring when the soil and air have warmed enough to favour the germination and growth of your grass. The very best time to put seed down is late August or early September.

Use new seed or seed that has been stored in a cool, dry place, since not all seed germinates even when new, and older seed may have a higher percentage that doesn't germinate. Follow the directions for your seed mix and your site conditions to determine how much seed to use. Because grass seed takes a couple of weeks to germinate, then another couple of weeks to grow in, it needs watering for a longer time initially than sod does.

Other Ground Covers

Along with, or as an alternative to a traditional grass lawn, you can add a richness of colour, shape, scent, and texture with trees, shrubs, wildflowers, native grasses, and herbs. These are often easier and less expensive to maintain than grass. Besides the many trees and shrubs on the market, some good plants to consider for Canada are creeping juniper, hostas, lily of the valley, creeping phlox, alyssum, spurge, sweet woodruff, thyme, and periwinkle. You might also like to include paving stones and mulches in your design. These may be the most practical solutions to high traffic areas in your yard.



Remember



Before Purchasing a Pesticide Product

- Identify the pest correctly.
- Use physical control methods and alternatives to pesticides.
- Read the label directions and safety precautions before buying

the product. The label must include the name of the pest to be controlled and the treatment location (e.g., indoor, outdoor, garden uses, pet treatment).

- Purchase only the quantity of product needed for the treatment.
- Alternatively, you may choose to hire a licensed pest control operator.

When Using a Pesticide

- Carefully read all label instructions and precautions before using pesticides.
- Do not drink, eat or smoke while applying pesticides.
- Persons and pets should vacate the area during treatment. Cover or remove aquaria.
- If kitchen area is to be treated, cover or remove food, dishes and utensils.

After Handling a Pesticide

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling any pesticide product.
- Do not permit persons or pets to contact treated surfaces until residue has dried completely.
- Provide adequate ventilation of treated areas after use.
- Wipe clean all surfaces that comes in direct contact with food, such as counters, tables and stovetops, including indoor and outdoor surfaces.
- Always store pesticides out of reach of children and pets and away from food and beverages.

In Case of Accidental Poisoning

- Call a poison control centre immediately and seek medical attention.
- Take the pesticide container or label with you to the emergency facility or physician.
- Follow first aid statements on the label.
- In case of accidental poisoning of pets seek veterinary attention immediately.



When Disposing of Pesticides

Do not reuse empty pesticide containers. Wrap and dispose of in household garbage.

Unused or partially used pesticide products should be disposed of at provincially or municipally designated household hazardous waste disposal sites.

Use Common Sense

- These are general recommendations.
- Consult the label for specific instructions.
- When in doubt, contact a professional.

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