

stagger each piece of sod, similar to a bricklayer's running pattern, so that none of the joints are in a line. Each piece should be fitted against others as tightly as possible. Fill in gaps with clean soil to reduce weed encroachment.

- 6) Smooth the surface and encourage rooting by rolling.
- 7) Irrigate heavily (3/4 to 1 inch) to ensure good rootzone moisture. This is especially necessary when laying a different sod-grown soil type over another (e.g., laying muck-grown sod over sandy soils). Provide good moisture for at least two weeks following planting. Gradually decrease the frequency between irrigations to an "as needed" basis.
- 8) Roll and/or topdress with clean rootzone soil to help smooth the sod surface.
- 9) Fertilize with nitrogen at 43 lb N per acre (e.g. 275 lb 16-4-8 per acre or 6.3 lb per 1000 sq. ft.) approximately 7 to 14 days following planting. Irrigate immediately after application.
- 10) Mow after the grass reaches the height listed in Table 4.

After the grass is installed, problems that arise may or may not be the grower's responsibility. Sod with dead edges indicates that it became too dry

before installation. Weeds within sod are probably brought in and are the responsibility of the grower. Weeds that grow between the seams of installed sod is due to faulty installation.

Improper irrigation after the installation of sod is always a problem. Enough water should be applied to thoroughly wet the root zone underneath the soil surface. Other problems often develop from spills of bleach, gasoline, and other commercial chemicals which may complicate one's ability to determine the cause of damage.

Summary

Commercial sod production is expensive and labor-intensive farming. Keen competition, saturated markets, and a fluctuating economy make a thorough investigation of potential markets and costs of production necessary. This publication is intended to provide some suggested guidelines on the management practices involved in sod production.

For more detailed information on sod production, readers are referred to 'Turfgrass Sod Production.' This book (Publication No. 21451) is available at the following address:

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