




Brookmeade Sod Farm, Inc.

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Installation and Care Guide Turf Type Tall Fescue

About Brookmeade

Established in 1968 Brookmeade has been the leader in growing sod for Central Virginia. Operating from three farms, all of our sod is grown in Hanover County. Brookmeade Sod Farm selects seed varieties and use maintenance programs especially adapted to the climatic conditions of the Richmond metropolitan area. Brookmeade is dedicated to providing our customers with the best varieties available. Turf Type Tall Fescue grasses are best for central Virginia's climate conditions and rainfall. Turf Type tall Fescue grass is a cool season grass so best to plant in September.

All of the sod grown at Brookmeade is highly cultivated and cared for from seed selection to harvest. This care guide will help you with preparation of your yard and assist you with keeping the grass healthy. If you have any questions, please give us call weekdays 8am – 4pm weather permitting.

Measuring for Sod

- Divide area into measurable areas as nearly as possible
- Measure Length x Width in Feet for **Square Footage**
- Divide **Square Footage** by 9 to covert into **Square Yards**
- Each roll of sod is 16” wide and 81” long (1 sq. yard)
- You can measure areas separately and add totals
- The sod can be cut easily to fit your area
- Add 5% for trimming and areas of unusual shape
- Call if you need help – or see measuring tab on www.BrookmeadeSod.com

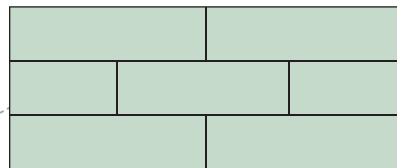
Preparing the Soil

- Loosen soil to a depth of 4 inches
- Remove sticks, rocks, clods and any growth
- Must have good soil to soil contact when installing sod
- Level with rake and grade 3/4 inch below sidewalks & borders
- Add lime using a rate of 50lbs/1000 sq. feet of lawn
- Add Starter Fertilizer according to directions
- Soil preparation should be complete before the sod arrives

Installing the Sod

We install Sod all year – weather permitting. Sod should be installed immediately after delivery – **within 12 hours during warm weather**. In cooler weather it will keep longer. **It is not recommended to install sod in temperatures 85° or above.** If you must sod during the summer, installation should be planned for the cooler hours of early morning or late evening.

- Start at the longest, straightest edge, complete this row before starting the next
- Stagger the joints in a brick pattern



- Do not overlap or leave spaces between strips
 - Trim around sidewalks and borders with a utility knife
 - You may roll or tamp the sod to press out air pockets
 - On slopes, run sod up and down. If a slope will be difficult to push a lawnmower over it will need to be pinned. Use 3 pins per roll, available at Brookmeade
 - Top and root growth begin immediately – sod should be rooted in 10-14 days
- ALL GRASS NEED SUN, WATER, AND NUTRIENTS.

Water! Water! Water!

DAY 1 - SOAK IT!

Nearly all sod failures are due to poor watering practices! Watering not only provides nourishment and cooling to the plant, it also settles the sod to the soil preventing further water loss.

FOLLOW FOR FIRST 10 - 14 DAYS.

Temperature	Dec-Feb	32° - 60°	60° - 85°	85° and above
When to Start Watering	SOAK IT On Day of Install	Day of Installation	Within 20 Minutes of First Roll Installed	Water Each Roll as it is Put Down
How Often to Water	Let Mother Nature do the Rest	Every Other Day for Two Weeks	Once a Day for Two Weeks	Twice a Day for Two Weeks
How Much Water at Each Application		1/2 inch	1/2 inch	1/2 inch

WATER IN THE MORNING!
Measure the water by volume not time.

Sod will be rooted after 10 - 14 days.
Grass needs 1.5 inches of water a week forever.
Recommended to water deep 2x a week, 3/4 inch each time. Rain gauge helps.

- Roots follow the water – water deep.
- Even with an automatic sprinkler system some hand watering may be necessary to wet the first sod installed before an entire sprinkler zone can be completed.
- Test for wetness – lift the sod to be sure soil beneath the sod is wet, remember sprinklers miss corners.
- When sod wilts – the leaves roll up and turn a darker color – it has already begun to die! Watering at this point will save many of the plants, but once a plant is dead, no amount of watering will bring it back.
- Turf roots need oxygen as well as water. Overly saturated soil will prevent the roots from getting necessary oxygen, and can cause blackening and plant loss.



- New sod will need to be mowed after established.
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in a single mowing.
- Mow Fescue to 3 inches (the tall setting on your mower).
- Keep your blades sharp for healthy grass and good appearance.
- Remove clippings if they are heavy enough to cover the grass.

Traffic on Sod

- Stay off sod that is extremely wet or on a slope.
- Use sod sparingly until well rooted – 2 to 3 weeks.
- Avoid concentrated play, dog traffic and rough use for 4 weeks.

Maintaining Your Sod for Years to Come

Fertilizer and Lime

There are many different brands of lawn fertilizer. It is important to remember to apply the right time of the year.

- Use the SOD method of application. Fertilize in **September**, **October** and **December**.
- Apply another application of fertilizer containing crabgrass control the end of March. A second application of crabgrass control is usually necessary.
- Virginia soil needs lime every year. Apply 50lbs. /1000 sq. feet of lawn or in accordance with soil test recommendation.
- A soil test is recommended every 3 years. Test kits are available at local garden centers, or take a sample into your local Southern States.

Controlling Weeds

To maintain the weed free quality for your sod, use of chemical herbicides may be necessary from time to time. Consult your local garden center for the right product for your needs. Good maintenance programs described in this brochure will reduce your need for herbicides.

Crabgrass is always a problem in Virginia. It is produced each year from the seed of last year's plants. The seeds come from anywhere and everywhere, so it is necessary to treat each year – even if you didn't have problems last year. The best way to control crabgrass is to prevent the seeds from successfully germinating; therefore it is important to apply the control at the proper stage of germination. In our area, the best time to apply the crabgrass control is when the forsythia is fully bloomed. Products for this purpose are labeled as "Pre-Emergence Crabgrass Control"



We accept VISA, MasterCard, cash and checks.

A Word About Disease

Turf type tall fescues are resistant to most diseases, but are affected by a disease known as "brown patch". It occurs during hot, humid weather when night time temperatures stay above 70°. If you notice spotty brown patches under these conditions, consult your local garden center.

Sunlight

Tall Fescue Sod requires 4 hours of direct sunlight every day to maintain healthy growth. As trees grow, pruning of lower limbs will help provide the turf with necessary sunlight and air.

Repairing Damaged Areas

- Prevent thinning by removing leaves and evergreen needles in the fall.
- Areas damaged by physical means can be re-sodded or over seeded. Buy Brookmeade seed.
- In case of chemically damaged areas (oil spill, etc.) consult Brookmeade.
- Seed to match your sod can be purchased from us. It is best to plant seed in September.

Did You Know

Sod is Cool – 50% of the sun's heat striking the surface of the earth is eliminated in a sod lawn through transpiration. Sod also reduces sunlight glare.

Sod is Quiet – When tested sod surpassed a heavy, felt-padded carpet in its ability to quiet the low and high frequencies most annoying to the human ear.

Sod is Ecological – Sod prevents soil erosion from either wind or water, thereby helping soil retain its valuable water and mineral content. Dust stabilization value is reflected in indoor comfort and decreasing cleaning problems.

Sod is Safe and Healthy – A sod play area provides a cushion which reduces the shock and potential injury to players. 2000 sq. ft of sod produces enough oxygen for a family of four.

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Green Since 1968

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Brookmeade's Own South Anna Blend

