



Serving the Texas Panhandle at Amarillo and Idalou!

H BAR H TURF FARMS

Installing Turf

Turf installation is easy to do and by far the quickest way to have a healthy, beautiful lawn. Installation is relatively simple and will provide you with an invigorating work out, with a very satisfying reward, an instant lawn. These step by step guidelines will lead you through the process of having a instantly beautiful, mature lawn providing you with years of comfortable and aesthetic enjoyment.

Step 1: Soil Preparations

Not enough can be said about the importance of proper soil preparation for the success of your lawn. Money spent at this time will yield years of trouble-free low-cost maintenance. The goal, is to provide a base in which grass roots can vigorously establish and grow.

- Remove rocks or other debris, control weeds and establish a rough grade.
- Ideally a soil sample should be taken if time permits. The county extension service can help you with this. This will let you learn about the features of your soil and how to best provide for the plant in the future.
- Install sprinklers – we highly recommend automatic sprinklers, they save not only time, but water. Complete any other site modifications such as sidewalks or flower beds.
- Incorporate 1-5 inches of compost or peat moss if possible. This will reduce compaction, improve water and nutrient retention and penetration, providing you with a water efficient lawn.
- It would be of great benefit to the health of your lawn to apply amendments. Incorporate a high phosphorous fertilizer at a rate of 2 lbs actual phosphorous per 1000 square feet. This will help to stimulate root development. At the same time apply and incorporate gypsum at a rate of 100 lbs per 1000 square feet. This will help with PH levels and allow nutrients to be more available to your grass.
- Rototill to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.
- Rake and smooth soil. Keep finished grade 1" below sidewalks or sprinkler heads.

Step 2: Turf Installation

Turf should be installed as soon as possible after delivery or pick up – within 12 hours. Turf is a living plant and is very perishable. Protect unlaied turf from the heat and wind by covering with moist burlap (not plastic) or sprinkling the edges with water.

- Begin installing turf along the longest straight line, such as a driveway. Push edges and ends tightly against each other without stretching. Stagger joints in each row, in a brick like pattern. Avoid gaps and overlapping. Turf may be cut with a knife to conform to curved boundaries.
- Never let installed turf lay for more than 30 minutes without watering. If you have a large area that takes several hours to install, continue to water installed areas as you continue to lay grass.
- After installation, water turfgrass thoroughly. When you pick up a piece of newly laid turf it should be wet underneath to a depth of 2 inches.
- One of the most important things that needs to happen in a turf installation is that the soil on the turf needs to bond with the soil on the ground. Depending on the smoothness of your grade and after initial watering, you may need to roll your lawn to eliminate any air pockets and insure good soil contact. Rental companies offer these rollers for an hourly or daily fee.
- Continue to water your new lawn daily applying enough moisture to soak through the turf and keep the soil below it wet to a minimum depth of 2 inches. You may need to water several times each day if wind and heat conditions are extreme.
- When it becomes difficult to pick up a piece of turf (2 - 3 weeks) you can reduce watering frequency but may want to soak your soil more thoroughly to encourage deep rooting. There is no substitute for common sense and environmental conditions and soil type will dictate how much water will be necessary to establish a good root system for your new lawn. As a rule of thumb, turf in full sun can use up to .4 inches of water per day in warm dry conditions.

Step 3: New Turf Care & Maintenance

Care should be given to insure your new turf roots down well in the new environment it has been installed. Strong root development will provide long lasting healthy and beautiful lawn for years to come.

WATERING

After the turf has rooted, (you can no longer pick up a piece of turf) water every third day to a depth of 8 inches. The best time to water is in the early morning when evaporation is the lowest. Deep watering will allow the roots to penetrate farther which provides more nutrients and makes a more water efficient lawn that is stress tolerant. Use a long screwdriver to check for water penetration. If you can insert it 8 – 10 inches easily, you have adequate water depth in the soil.

MOWING

The first mowing should occur within 2 weeks of installation. Be sure to set the mower at the proper height for the particular lawn variety you have installed. Thereafter, cut only the top third of the grass blade at any mowing. Keep mower blades sharp so that you are cutting the grass, not tearing it.

FOOT TRAFFIC

Foot traffic should be kept to a minimum for the first two weeks, allowing the turfgrass to properly root, and to not disturb the grade. Turfgrass is a mature product and will withstand traffic once root development has established.

FERTILIZER

If you did not incorporate a high phosphorous, Starter Fertilizer before installation, do so NOW. Ideally a balanced fertilizer should be applied 1 to 3 months after installation depending on the variety of turfgrass chosen and the time of year installation occurred. Frequent watering that is necessary to establish your new turfgrass, often moves some of the nutrients away from the root zone.

For warm season Hybrid Bermudagrass apply a balanced fertilizer after installation at one month intervals during the growing season, May through September.

For cool season turfgrass, Frontier Fescue or Triple Crown Bluegrass, apply a balanced fertilizer one month after installation, as long as that month is NOT June, July or August.

A balanced fertilizer is a similar ratio of all elements (N) nitrogen, (P) phosphorous and (K)potassium, ie: 16-8-8.

WEED CONTROL

Weeds can easily occur after turfgrass installation or anytime the soil is disturbed. Most weed seeds need exposure to sunlight, water and fertilizer in order to germinate. Sound familiar, two of those three elements are also necessary to proper turf installation. To eliminate the off chance of a weed incidence, we use pre-emergent herbicide on our turfgrass in early spring and throughout the growing season as a preventative measure for weed germination. The transplanting process does weaken the pre-emergent barrier and we strongly suggest a 60-90 day pre-emergent product be applied AFTER turf is installed and thoroughly watered. Turfgrass is a mature product and if there is a weed incidence, it can generally compete with and overcome any weeds that occur.

Check with your local nursery supplier for product availability.

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Idalou Farm
By Appointment Only