

Caring

After laying, your new lawn may show variations in colour and texture, this is because a farm field is not 100% uniform and as such a lawn will adapt its appearance to the soil it is laid on. Shading may also be determined by the direction the turf is laid out. In both of these instances the shading and texture will address itself over time.

Watering

The following are the most important watering guidelines for a new lawn:

- ✓ **YOU MUST** Keep new laid turf moist until it has fully established
- ✓ **YOU MUST** Water your entire lawn Typically 15-20 minutes of with a sprinkler
- ✓ **YOU MUST** Water twice or even three times a day during hot, dry or windy conditions
- ✓ **YOU MUST** Water immediately at any sign of the turf drying out or shrinking

Mowing

In spring/summer/autumn your new turf will be ready for its first mow in 14-28 days, if watered correctly and root knitting has been achieved.

Ensure your first cut is a gentle cut, simply taking the top off the grass and **NOT** cutting at the lowest level on your mower. Raise the cutting height of your mower and use grass collector box. Continue to cut (twice a week in spring or once a week in summer), never removing more than one third of the current height.

For turf laid during the winter, there is only a requirement to trim the top off the grass if the lawn is still growing. Eventually the lawn will cease growing and then can be left until springtime

Feeding your lawn

Why is Lawn Feed so important?

If your new lawn is not fed extra nutrients, the grass will almost definitely use up the plant food reserve found within the soil, which will then turn your grass pale and thin.

Lawn feed helps develop the grass thickness and side shoots. This prevents the lawn seed from being exposed to invasion from moss and weed seeds, because they thrive in low-nutrient conditions.

If your lawn was laid in spring

The grass is at its most active at this time of year. Not only is your newly laid turf busily putting its roots deep into your soil, the leaves are growing like crazy too. It needs lots of lawn feed which provides nutrients to the turf.

Feed after four weeks and be sure to follow the manufacturers' instructions.

A granular lawn feed is by far the easiest to apply. Always use a properly-calibrated fertilizer spreader. That way you'll get even coverage.

Use a proprietary spring-summer lawn feed but **NOT** "weed and feed".....it's just too harsh for young lawns. Apply every 6 weeks until September and then change to autumn-winter lawn feed.

If your lawn was laid in summer

If you laid turf between July and September your main focus is going to be on making sure the plants have plenty of water. Irrigation tends to wash plant nutrients through the soil so little and often is the key here.

Apply a spring-summer feed once the turf has had 3-4 cuts.....normally around 5 weeks after laying. The grass grows slower in summer than in spring but remember that there's a lot of growing happening underground as the plants develop their root systems.

If your lawn was laid in autumn

The soil is still warm and hopefully the weather is mild so your turf will be working hard to put its roots down.

It's important at this time of year that the sward (leaves) doesn't get too lush. Soft new growth is more susceptible to disease in autumn than at any other time.

Apply an autumn-winter lawn feed 4-6 weeks after turfing. But be careful! It **MUST** be low in nitrogen. You don't want to stimulate fast-growing but weak leaves. This feed is for the roots. Nothing else.

If your lawn was laid in winter

It's OK to lay turf in winter, professional landscapers do it a lot and there are rarely any problems. Just don't expect speedy establishment. At this time of year there will be minimal growth from the roots or the leaves, unless of course the weather is very mild.

Really, there's no need to feed winter-laid turf until the weather starts to warm up in March/April. Apply a spring-summer lawn feed to kick-start growth once the soil temperature reaches around 5 or 6 degrees centigrade. Then continue to feed every 4-6 weeks depending on your soil type.