

Lawns are the most noticeable feature of any garden as they provide the focus for outdoor activities, create a feeling of space and enhance the surrounding garden. Lawns provide a safe area for children & families to play and a great area to entertain. In this information sheet we aim to provide information on preparing, laying & maintaining any lawn area.



Lawn Selection:

When you either replace an existing lawn or start a new lawn area there are several considerations that need to be addressed:

- What purpose will the new lawn serve?
- What is your soil type?
- Where is the lawn located?
- How much time do you have to maintain it?
- Is there water available for watering?
- Do I grow the lawn or lay instant turf?

If you take these points into consideration you can have a lawn that you can enjoy for a long time. We recommend consulting your local lawn & seed supplier for the ranges of lawn available.

New Lawns:

Once you have selected the type of lawn that is to be laid, you need to select the method that you will use to establish the new lawn. The two methods of establishing a new lawn is laying instant turf or seeding.

Instant turf is a great way to get a high quality hassle free lawn that is useable in a week from laying. However, the cost of these lawns are quite expensive. Turf lawns are great in areas where it is difficult to establish seeded lawns.

Seeding is a much cheaper option, however lawns can take up to a year to fully establish especially during the winter months. A seeded lawn may also take longer or not even grow in difficult areas such as slopes and areas near overhead trees & plants.

Preparation:

When you begin a new lawn area the surface will need to be prepared to allow the grass roots to penetrate the soil.

Rotary Hoes:

Rotary hoes are used to turn over soils that are often too hard or very lumpy. The rotary hoe can also be used to blend additives such as compost to make the soil better for growing. It is recommended that you remove all weeds and existing grass from the soil.

Often before you lay a lawn especially a turf lawn, soil will need to be removed to make way for the newly laid grass. This can be achieved with the use of a dingo mini loader.



Laying:

Turf:

Begin by spreading starter fertiliser over the area to be laid & water in.

Laying: Start by laying your lawn a small section at a time, starting with the longest side and lay your borders first. Always be sure to lay your lawn against the slope. Remember to lay your lawn in a brickwork pat-tern, so that all your joins do not end up finishing together. When you need to cut your turf use a sharp cutting shovel or garden scissor.

Compaction: Roll over all areas with a water filled roller to compact the turf, remove any lumps and air pockets caused when laying.



Watering: Make sure you get your sprinkler onto the lawn as soon as you finish laying the first section. You will know that it has been watered enough when you lift up the roll and see that the water has seeped through to the soil. Make sure you water the turf regularly for the first 2 weeks, but don't over water it.

Mowing: You can mow your lawn when you cannot lift it up from the ground anymore. Time will vary depending on the season. Be sure not to cut it too low on the first mow as this will result in scalping your new lawn.



Fertilise: You should fertilise your lawn 3 times a year with good quality lawn fertiliser. The best seasons to fertilize are Spring, Summer and Autumn. Be sure to water the fertilizer in well. Don't fertilise in Winter because it is too cold for any fertiliser to work.

Seeding:

- Sow the lawn on a wind free day, just before you start sowing, give the area a final raking.
- Divide the quantity of seeds into two, (it is better to sow two lighter sowings rather than a heavier one). If the area to be sown is large, you can divide the seeds further, this will reduce the chances of covering three quarters of the area and finding that all the seed has gone.
- Sow one covering of seeds while walking in one direction, and the second sowing while walking at right-angles to the first covering.
- Lightly rake the seed into the top of the soil, you won't cover all the seed but try to cover about half.
- Water in and continue to water over the next few weeks keeping the soil moist. Grass seed should germinate and show within 7 to 21 days depending upon the weather, do not walk on it during this period.

Maintenance:

To protect your new investment you will need to maintain you lawn so that it looks and remains healthy.

Aeration:

As lawns can sustain heavy use from activities and traffic soil compaction can result. Soil compaction results in poor drainage, lack of oxygen to roots, poor water infiltration, lack of nutrients to roots and of course a poor looking lawn. A motorised lawn aerator removes small cores of grass that allows the grass to breathe, when combined with a good water and a spread of fertilizer lawns become healthier in a few weeks.



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