

St Augustine Sod

Maintaining a lawn can always be challenging and so the following are some recommended guidelines that will help St Augustine grow properly and healthy.

Replacing

1. Try to replace sod during the cool months of the year- March to May, September to October.
2. Ensure the location where new sod will be placed is completely dead- grass, weeds and all. To do this, spray the entire area with an herbicide that will kill everything. Let the herbicide work into the roots for about 2 weeks. This helps in two ways:
 - a. When the time comes for you to lay sod, the dead grass and weeds will rake up with little effort.
 - b. Secondly, you will have a nice clean area free of weed roots and debris.
3. Do not clear the area of dead debris until you are ready to lay sod. You typically clear the debris no more than one week before laying sod. This process will eliminate weed buildup and will allow the ground to retain more moisture.

Purchasing

1. Try to purchase sod within one day of installing it.
2. Try to purchase sod that has been cut within one day prior to installation to help ensure the sod is still healthy, strong, and still retaining some moisture.

Installing

1. When laying sod, wait to cut any pieces to shape contours, corners, edges, etc until you have laid the entire section you want to replace.
2. Butt each piece of sod tightly up against other pieces of sod as you lay it down. This will help eliminate future weed growth and provide a healthy coverage.
3. Do your best at laying sod against sidewalks, roads, driveways without cutting it. The more a piece of sod can stay in tact the stronger it will more likely be to withstand the heat and the bugs coming from the roads, sidewalks, and driveway.
4. Stamp or roll the sod once laid to help the roots of sod lay flat against the soil.
5. Water the newly placed sod every day for at least two weeks with about 1 to 2 inches of water every day.

Maintaining: To maintain a healthy lawn all year round the following tips will help.

1. Fertilize the lawn roughly four times a year over an eight-month period from March to October.
 - a. Be sure to use fertilizer that is specific for St Augustine grass.
 - b. Water the fertilizer in sufficiently to avoid burning the grass.
2. Apply pesticide and weed control with the same frequency as the fertilizer. Pesticides should at minimum focus on chinch bugs. Again, be sure the pesticides and weed control are specific for St Augustine grass.
3. Cut the grass 3-4 inches high. The shorter the grass the more likely fungus will occur.
4. Water the lawn at least 1-2 inches twice a week.
5. Ensure the sprinkler system has 100% water coverage on the lawn.
6. Water the lawn during the specified VP watering schedule- found online.
7. At the earliest sign of bug, weed, or fungus damage, address the areas quickly with the proper chemicals.