

# **SOD INSTALLATION & CARE GUIDE**



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## **PREPARING SITE FOR NEW SOD**

Rake up any debris, weeds or existing grass. For compacted soils, grass grows best when area to be sodded has been roto-tilled 4–6" to loosen and aerate soil for deeper, denser root structure. Level ground to ensure good contact between soil and sod.

## **LAYING NEW SOD**

Install sod by laying pieces tightly against each other. Use a sharp tool to cut in sod around curves, edges, sprinkler heads, etc. **Apply "Pre-Plant" underneath sod to enrich soil, enhance rapid root development, and aid in watering. "Pre-Plant's" moisture retention granule will help decrease irrigation cost. It pays for itself! We also recommend Ferti-lome "New Lawn Starter" fertilizer (applied on top of new sod) to nurse rapid rooting and growth.**

## **WATERING NEW SOD**

Water area at least once a day in the morning (best time is around sunrise) for approximately 2 weeks. Do not water grass after sundown! (This keeps grass too wet for too long and could lead to fungus.) **After sod is established, decrease watering frequency to encourage grass to send roots deeper and get their own moisture.** CAUTION — shaded areas may not require as much water. During period of good rains, adjust your watering. If you have an automatic watering system, it is best to install a rain shut off device to disarm the system when it rains. This inexpensive device will save water, save you money, and discourage fungus development.

## **MOWING NEW SOD**

Mow your lawn on a weekly or as needed basis as soon as it takes root (usually 10-14 days) to encourage spreading and growth. For best appearance, mow Floratam & Palmetto at 3"-4", Seville & ProVista at 2"-3", and Zoysia at 1"-2".

## **PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR NEW SOD**

During seasonal periods of high temperatures and high humidity, apply an insecticide like Hi-Yield "Bug Blaster Plus Above/Below" as well as a fungicide (Fertilome Systemic Fungicide F-Stop) **within a few days of installation.** (*Newly installed sod is under great stress and susceptible to disease or insects from surrounding yards.*)

## **ATTENTION SOD BUYERS – SOD IS NOT GUARANTEED**

At Lukas, we carry only *first quality, field grown, sand bottom based sod*, not muck or cow pasture sod as sold by others. Our sod is freshly cut, delivered and sold in a viable condition. However, sod is a perishable product and we cannot control variables such as site, soil conditions, insects, planting and care once it leaves Lukas Nursery. Please read and follow this "Sod and Planting Care Guide" to assist in providing the best results. Thank you for understanding.

— The Lukas family

## ZOYSIA

A dwarf, fine bladed “barefoot” grass that spreads from underground runners. Found in Brazil and Australia, Zoysia thrives in harsh tropical climates. With its “soft to the touch feel”, exceptional drought tolerance and reduced maintenance and mowing needs, it is the sod of the future for Central Florida’s unique climate.

## “FLORATAM” ST. AUGUSTINE

The standard St. Augustine, it is a wide bladed, dark green variety that spreads from runners on top of the soil. Floratam prefers full sun.

## “SEVILLE” ST. AUGUSTINE

A semi-dwarf variety that requires less mowing, it has a luxurious dark green color. Seville prefers full sun but will tolerate more shade than Floratam.

## “PALMETTO” ST. AUGUSTINE

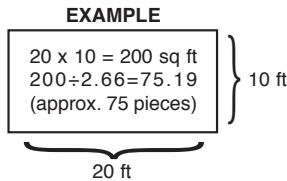
This lush variety of St. Augustine prefers full sun but also offers good shade tolerance. Due to its deeper root system, Palmetto exhibits good drought tolerance and resistance to cold and frost.

## “PROVISTA” ST. AUGUSTINE

This new revolutionary variety of St. Augustine, derived from the long-standing genetics of Floratam and developed by Scotts®, offers a deep green color in full sun to moderate shade. Its dense, slow growing, horizontal growth habit and weed-free capability can cut your mowing time down significantly.

## HOW MANY PIECES OF SOD DO I NEED?

There are 400 square feet per pallet (150 pieces/pallet). Each piece is 2.66 sq. ft. To figure out how many pieces you need for the area you wish to sod, take the total sq. ft. area and divide it by 2.66.



## FEEDING

Your established lawn should be fertilized with the best - our own Lukas Iron + Lawn Food. It is a time released, constant feed, professional blend total fertilizer that only needs to be applied 2 times a year - spring and fall. Guaranteed the best or your money back! (Cheaper, lower nutrient, common fertilizers need to be applied 3 to 4 times a year.)

## INSECTS

Chinch bugs are tiny insects (1/8" in length) that suck plant juices. They thrive in hot, dry weather and produce patches of dead areas that look like brown dried straw. Sod webworms chew off grass blades just above the thatch line. Other insects that can cause damage include grubs, army worms and mole crickets. At Lukas we carry professional strength insecticide for control, like Hi-Yield's "Bug Blaster Plus Above/Below". (We also have other professional insecticides in liquid or granular).

## FUNGUS

Fungus spreads by microscopic spores. When conditions of moisture, high temperature and humidity are favorable, fungus attacks grasses. Irregular, dead or declining areas in your lawn may indicate fungus infestation. Fungicides for control include Ferti-lome's Liquid Systemic containing "Banner" and the new professional strength "F-Stop" fungicide in liquid or granular.