



# LAWN INSTALLATION GUIDE

Roll on turf allows you to enjoy a lawn of instant beauty and maturity without the usual time consuming hassles of seeding or planting runners.

✂ **The following are the basic steps to a beautiful lawn** ✂

STEP ONE

## MEASURING & ORDERING

- With a tape, measure the area of your planned lawn by multiplying length by width (squaring off as best as possible). If you have curves it may be necessary to order a couple of extra metres.
- We harvest to order so after preparatory work is completed and you are ready to install, phone through your order at least 3 working days before delivery or pick up is required.
- **Make sure your measurements are correct as we aren't able to take turf back or give refunds if you over order.**

STEP TWO

## SOIL PREPARATION

- Rake the soil to remove any rocks, rubbish or roots.
- To grow a healthy lawn you need at least 150mm of good quality top soil (**250mm if in the Hills**) **OR** amend your existing soil to the same depth.
- To amend your soil **EITHER** incorporate 50mm of our Underlay in the top 100mm of sand, **OR** a combination of Bentonite Clay (2kg per metre) and Humus soil conditioner (20Ltr per 50m<sup>2</sup>) to a depth of 150mm. These products are available at our Wattle Grove Sales Office.
- Level the area and spread Dynamic Lifter (10kg for every 50m<sup>2</sup>) and Eco Prime NPK RED fertiliser (10kg for every 50m<sup>2</sup>) on the surface.
- Thoroughly soak the soil to a depth of 10mm after fertiliser application.
- The soil should be 30mm below paths to allow for the thickness of the turf, and pop up sprinklers should be at about soil level so they will be below the turf when installation is complete.
- Eliminate drainage problems by having soil slope away from foundations etc.

STEP THREE

## INSTALLATION

- **Install your lawn within 24 hours; 12 hours if the temperature is above 32 degrees. This is crucial to a strong beginning for your instant lawn.**
  - Begin installing turf along the longest straight line.
  - Lay rolls tightly against each other avoiding gaps or overlaps and stagger the joins in a brick-work fashion.
  - Cut the rolls with a large serrated knife. Jam the rolls in rather than tug to meet.
  - For a smooth finish; roll or compact the lawn to ensure that the roots are bedded into your soil.
- N.B. During the first few weeks, avoid heavy or concentrated use of your new lawn to give it an opportunity to establish.*

STEP FOUR

## WATERING

- For efficient water use and to maintain a healthy lawn you need a professionally designed automatic reticulation system.
- The spray from each sprinkler should land at the base of the sprinkler next to it (head to head coverage). Check sprinklers intermittently for blockages or damage.
- Hoses and moveable sprinklers are inefficient and less likely to provide even coverage.
- Your lawn needs to be kept moist at all times during the establishment period.
- Over the first 8 weeks, reduce the frequency of watering but increase the amount per session when reducing to every second day (see below).
- Remember when there is wind, your sprinklers will not perform as they should and extra watering may be required.
- **Soft leaf Buffalo may need supplementary watering during the summer heat waves if in full sun.**
- We strongly recommend amending your soils with Bentonite clay and humus soil conditioners as this will help maximise your watering sessions.

**Sub surface irrigation – if you have sub surface irrigation you will need to water from above with a hose and mobile sprinkler for the first three weeks. Lovegrove Turf Services does not recommend sub-surface irrigation for Buffalo lawns.**

**Summer Watering Schedule revised January 2017** We recommend following the watering schedule below:

(10mm per session to start with, increasing to 25mm from week 4) . We free have **catch-cups** available to measure this.

*Week 1 - 3 times per day - Before dawn, 10.00am, 3.00pm*

*Week 2 - 2 times per day - Just before dawn, noon*

*Week 3 - Daily - Before dawn*

*Weeks 4 - 8 - Every second day before dawn*

*Week 8 on - Two times a week before dawn*

**After 8 weeks, if temperatures exceed 34°C on consecutive days, subsequent watering sessions will be required.**

**On extremely hot days in a heatwave increase the number of waterings.**

**Common sense in Winter is needed, usually starting at week 3 for two weeks then following the schedule will be sufficient**

Exemptions can be obtained by contacting the Waterwise Helpline on 13 13 85

## HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR LAWN ONCE INSTALLED

**Mowing:** When your lawn begins to look untidy it is probably time to mow – this should usually be 2 – 3 weeks after installation in the warmer months. Mow often, generally removing no more than 1/3 of the leaf. To keep lawn looking its best we recommend the use of a reel mower especially for Wintergreen and to keep your mower blades sharp.

**Watering:** The first year your lawn may require extra water during the hot summer months. Generally once established, three watering days a week will suffice (two allowed + one hand water)

**Fertilising:** This should be done every 6—8 weeks throughout the year to maintain growth and colour.

**This is especially important with Zoysia as it takes 12 months to fully establish.**

**Pesticides/Herbicides:** Seek advice before spraying turf less than 6 months old. Make sure with Buffalo lawn that you use a product that is suitable for Buffalo lawn.

## LONG TERM TURF MAINTENANCE

Lawn is a long term investment, therefore it is important to understand what your lawn requires on a regular basis. The following information should be helpful to keep your lawn green and healthy.

### FERTILISING

Lawn needs a wide variety of nutrients, many of which are present already in your soil. Three nutrients that are not readily available however, are Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium also known as NPK. Nitrogen helps to make your lawn lush and green, Phosphorus helps to grow stronger roots and Potassium helps to make the plant cope with a variety of weather conditions, pests and diseases.

It is advisable to use a fertiliser that contains NPK at a fairly balanced ratio. We recommend Eco Prime NPK RED.



Apply NPK RED at the maintenance rate every 6 – 8 weeks throughout the year. A heavier rate can be used just prior to Winter to keep the colour in your lawn.

For a “quick” greening effect, Eco Prime EMERALD can be used, but it is not advisable to be used exclusively, as the high Nitrogen will promote growth of the leaf but will not contribute to a healthy root system.

### COMPACTION

Compacted soil can restrict grass roots from growing and receiving vital nutrients. Aerating your turf is the process of removing plugs from the soil, also known as coring. This will allow the roots to penetrate deeper and reach vital nutrients and moisture.

Compaction is generally a result of excessive foot traffic and is typically in areas that are close to the front or back door, on road verges and under swings or clothes lines. Aeration can be done manually by wriggling a garden fork back and forward to open out air passages.

For larger areas a motorised coring machine can reduce labour time and as the cores are removed from the soil, will have greater results. Within a short time the holes that you created will be filled with actively growing roots.

Aerating for most lawns should be done annually.



### THATCH

Thatch is a layer of stems and roots that have not decomposed yet. It accumulates near the soil surface at a rate which is determined by the vigour and type of lawn. Some lawns are more prone to thatch than others and an example of this is couch grass. Thatch is a normal part of any lawn and to some degree can be regulated by the amount of water and fertiliser you apply. When thatch becomes excessive, the lawn may begin to root into the thatch layer instead of the soil. This is a problem as thatch does not hold water or nutrients.

One way to tell if your lawn has thatch issues is to look at the colour of the lawn after mowing. If it has burn-like strips or is spongy to walk on, your lawn has a thatch layer. If thatch has become a problem, Vertimowing is the answer.

Vertimowing in cooler weather can significantly slow the rate of recovery but if done in the warmer seasons, watered and fertilised adequately, your lawn should recover within a couple of weeks.



### WATERING

Good watering habits will benefit your lawn and also help you avoid the many problems associated with over and under watering. The best time to water your lawn is in the morning when the humidity is at its highest. This enables water to remain available to the lawn throughout the day. It is not recommended to water your lawn at night because the water will not be absorbed as well. Hydrophobic soil is when the water cannot penetrate the surface and cannot be used by the lawn. One way to combat this problem is to use a good quality wetting agent as part of your maintenance regime.

**One indication that your lawn is stressed due to lack of water is a grey blue tinge, or the leaves will roll or fold vertically.** Using catch cups to measure how much water your sprinklers produce, is a good way to make sure you are watering at the correct rate. After fertilising it is recommended that extra water is applied to dissolve the fertiliser so that it can be used by your lawn.