

## LAWN GUIDE

### 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 instances, the shading and texture will address itself over time.

### WATERING

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

- Keep new laid turf moist until it has fully established
- Water your entire lawn
- Water twice or even three times a day during hot, dry or windy conditions
- Water immediately at any sign of the turf drying out or shrinking

If you find yourselves having not given sufficient water, causing gaps to appear in between the rows of turf, then fill those gaps with a combined soil/seed mixture and increase your watering regime

Once you see healthy new white roots when you carefully lift a corner or turf, then the new turf is starting to thrive and knit.

### MOWING

In spring/summer/autumn your new turf will be ready for its first mow in 7-14 days, if watered correctly and root knitting has been achieved.

Ensure your first cut is a gently 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 the 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.

Please remember to always maintain your mower blades.

## NEW LAWN TROUBLESHOOTING

Grass is a very robust plant, and you shouldn't have any problems with your new lawn. However, you may notice a few natural phenomena in the first few weeks while it settles into its new environment, therefore it is not uncommon to notice the following:

- Toadstools- From a lawn perspective, these are nothing to worry about and are particularly common in autumn or warm and wet conditions. All soil contains dormant fungal spores which can lay inactive for years but when the soil is disturbed, they can spring back into life. You don't need to remove them- they will disappear after a couple of mows without doing any permanent damage to your lawn. Most toadstools have been tested and shown to be non-toxic, however we advise you take normal precautions to remove and dispose of them(using disposable gloves and waste bag) This will ensure that children, pets and inquisitive adults do not eat them and are free from the slightest risk.
- Flowering seed heads- Grass produces these naturally although they are more prevalent in the late spring/ summer especially if the weather turns hot and dry (drought conditions). When turf is harvested the majority of the root system is cut off. This is stressful to the grass plants and they produce seed heads as a means of self- preservation. The seed heading will reduce once the new turf has established a new root system, which can take 6-8 weeks. Seed heading will also reduce if the new lawn receives adequate nutrients and is mowed regularly with a sharp blade.
- Volunteer potatoes-Are unwanted small potatoes occasionally found in the soil of a harvested turf crop. Turf is grown on agricultural land and potatoes are one of the crops used in the field's rotation. You do not need to dig the potato out, all that is required is to mow the grass regularly as this will exhaust the food supply of the tuber causing the plant to die. It may take up to three weeks for this to happen but as you will be mowing the lawn to maintain the turf, there is no extra maintenance needed. No herbicide is required to remove the potatoes

## MAINTAINING AN ESTABLISHED LAWN

Turf is a living product and therefore has certain basic requirements necessary to remain healthy. To help, we have listed some common problems to be aware of:

- Disease – The most common affecting grass is fusarium patch disease, noticeable as yellow-brown patches and requires immediate treatment with a suitable fungicide. To ensure fungicidal penetration into the root zone this might have to be repeated more than once. Prevention methods are possible
- Pests- The leatherjacket grub, larvae of the crane fly feeds on the grass roots in the spring. They are not normally a problem unless the populations are very large. If infested, seek suitable treatment remedies. Earthworms help aerate and place organic matter into the soil, however, they are responsible for worm casts, unsightly lumps of mud that usually appear in your lawn in autumn and early spring. The solution is to brush away the casts off prior to mowing.
- Weeds- Grass is a very competitive plant and if it is in a healthy state, weeds will find it hard to get established. However, weeds are opportunistic and therefore are able to establish very rapidly if given a chance. Act quickly to identify the weeds and obtain the appropriate product or better still, remove them using a small hand fork.

## JANUARY- FEBRUARY

Growth slows down so there is little to do. Stay off the lawn in frost and only mow if growth continues.

Aerate the lawn to keep the soil oxygenated, service the mower and sharpen or replace the blades.

## MARCH

Once grass starts growing again, you will need to commence mowing. Start with a high cut and slowly reduce the settings with each additional mow.

Brush off any worm casts, scarify and apply moss treatment

## SPRING

Perform lawn mowing weekly, however, do not cut more than one third off the existing height

Provide your lawn with a nitrogen-based fertiliser to thicken the grass and restore a rich green colour. Re-seed any thinning patches.

## SUMMER

Apply a summer feed

Spot-treat any stubborn weeds

To avoid stressing the lawn in hot weather, mowing can be reduced and cutting height raised

Watering should not be required as your lawn should cope with typical dry periods. If you dislike brown patches then water in the early morning or late evening to avoid scorching.

## AUTUMN

Commence reducing your frequency of mowing

Use an autumn feed

If necessary, apply a weed treatment

Aerate the lawn to reduce compaction and allow rain and air back into the soil

Brush off any worm casts

## WINTER

Perform light mowing, gradually increasing the height until the lawn no longer grows

Attempt to remove all failing debris and leaves from the lawn

Apply a winter feed that is low in nitrogen but high in iron, to aid the grass for the coming winter

Drag a hosepipe or something similar to remove dew formation and help prevent Fusarium disease