



## Growing the Most Beautiful Lawn in the Neighborhood

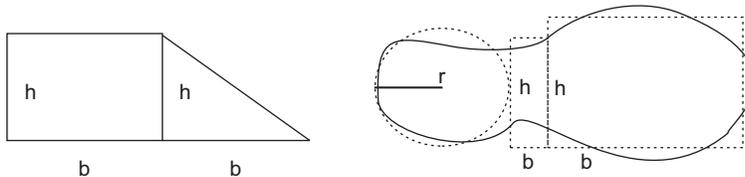
Part Two

### P.I.E

#### Preparation, Installation & Establishment (It's as easy as pie.)

### Measuring & Ordering

Break the yard area down to obvious forms of squares, rectangles, triangles and circles. Calculate each form's area. (Circle =  $3.14 \times r^2$ , Rectangle = base x height, Square = base x height, Square = base x height, Triangle = base x height / 2) Once each for is calculated, add the areas together to derive a total area. Express the area by square foot when ordering.



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### Soil Preparation

Eliminate drainage problems by having the soil slope away from foundations, etc.

Soil test your lawn area with the assistance of a qualified service in your area. Then rotor-till in fertilizer, lime, peat, compost, etc. as needed to a depth of 7 to 10 cm. (3 to 6 in.). Rake and smooth the soil, removing rocks, roots and large clods. Roll the area lightly with a lawn roller 1/3 full of water. This will firm the soil surface and reveal low areas that need more soil. Keep the grade 2 to 3 cm. (1 in.) below sidewalks or driveways.

Make a single application of a starter fertilizer either before or after turf installation. The starter fertilizer should be high phosphorus and potassium to enhance root growth and development.

Water the prepared soil and provide a moist base for the turf. Moistening to a depth of 15cm. (6 in.) is recommended for most soils.

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### Turf Installation

Install you lawn immediately upon delivery. Begin watering lawn **within 30 minutes of installation**. Turf is a living plant that requires ground contact and moisture to survive!

In hot weather, protect unlaidd turf by placing pallets in the shade and/or sprinkling the exterior of the sod to keep it moist and fresh until it is installed.

Begin installing turf along the straightest line, such as driveway or sidewalk. Butt and push edges and ends against each other tightly, without stretching. Avoid gaps or overlaps. Stagger the joints in each row in a brick-like fashion, using a large sharp knife to trim corners, etc. Avoid leaving small strips at the outer edges as they will not retain moisture. On slopes, place the turf in pieces across the slope.



To avoid causing indentations or air pockets, avoid repeated walking or kneeling on the turf while it is being installed or just after watering.

After installing the turf, roll the entire area to improve the turf/soil contact and remove air pockets.

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## Turf Establishment

### Fertilizing

If you did not fertilize before installing your turf, apply a starter fertilizer, such as 10-20-10 to your new lawn. Water your lawn immediately after fertilization to dissolve the nutrients into a solution and to make it available to the grass roots. Do not apply fertilizer to a lawn wet with dew, rain, or recent irrigation. The granules will discolor leaf tissue where they stick to the water droplets.

### Watering

Give your new lawn at least 2 to 3 cm. (1 in.) of water within 1/2 hour of installation. Water 2-4 times daily, keeping turf, moist until firmly rooted (about 2 weeks). When your lawn is firmly rooted, less frequent and deeper watering should begin.

Weather conditions will dictate the amount and frequency of watering. Be certain that your new lawn has enough moisture to survive hot, dry, or windy periods. Water areas near buildings and fences more often where reflected heat dries the turf more rapidly.

### Caution

During the first three weeks, avoid heavy or concentrated use of your new lawn. This gives the roots an opportunity to firmly knit with the soil and insures that the turf will remain smooth.

### Maintenance

Your new sod lawn increases your property value significantly. With proper care, it will remain a great asset, providing beauty, a clean playing surface, and an improved environment.

See part 3, "Care and Maintenance," For High Desert Turf's recommendations on mowing, watering, and fertilizing your new lawn.

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