Growing the Most Beautiful Lawn in the Neighborhood

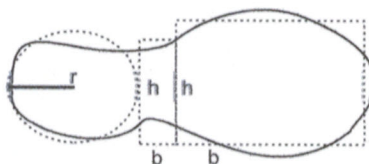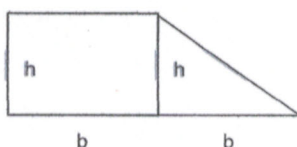## Part Two
P.I.E
Preparation, Installation & Establishment
(It's as easy as pie.)

Measuring & Ordering

Break the yard area down to obvious forms of squares, rectangles, triangles and circles. Calculate each form's area. (Circle = 3.14 x radius squared, Rectangle = base x height, Square = base x height, Square = base x height, Triangle = base x height divided by 2) Once each is calculated, add the areas together to derive a total area. Express the area by the square footage when ordering.

Soil Preperation

Eliminate drainage problems by shaping the soil to slope away from building foundations, etc.

Soil test your lawn area with the assistance of a qualified service (private consultant or University Extension service) in your area. Then rototill in fertilizer, lime, peat, compost, etc., as needed to a depth of 3 to 6 inches. 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 1 inch 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 development and growth. See Fertilizing in our Care and Maintenance Guide for further reference.

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.

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 un-laid turf by placing pallets in the shade and 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. Fit 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 and edges. Use full pieces of turf at the outer edges and small strips as needed inward, as small strips at the edge will not retain moisture and will lose condition. When installing on steep slopes pin the turf with small wood dowels.

Turf Installation Continued...

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

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

Turf Establishment

Fertilizing

If you did not fertilize before installing your turf, apply a starter fertilizer, such as 10-20-20 or 16-16-16, to your new lawn. Water your lawn immediately after fertilization to dissolve the nutrients into a solution. 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 one 1/2 inch of water within 1/2 hour of installation. Water 2-4 times daily, depending in the hot season of the year, keeping the turf moist until firmly rooted (about 2 weeks). In the fall and spring less frequent applications of water may necessary. When your lawn is firmly rooted, less frequent and deeper watering should begin. Water areas near buildings and fences more often where reflected heat dries the turf more rapidly.

Lawn Usage

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

You 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.