

# SITE PREPARATION TIPS

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Measuring tape
- Shovel, pitchfork & spade
- Rake to smooth out soil
- Starter fertiliser & water crystals
- Fertiliser & spreader
- Shears or sharp knife to cut the turf
- Dynamic lifter or similar
- Hose, sprinkler or irrigation system
- Rotary hoe & roller (optional)

## 1 MEASURING & ORDERING

Work out the square meterage (m<sup>2</sup>) of the area you plan to turf. The following formulas will help you to determine m<sup>2</sup>:

**Square or rectangle:** length x width

**Triangle (90°):** length x width ÷ 2

**Circle:** 3.14 x radius x radius

**Semi circle:** 3.14 x radius x radius ÷ 2

Our turf comes in easy-to-handle premium quality slab cut form to ensure easy establishment all year round.

Each piece of turf measures approx 1220mm by 410mm (ie: 2 slabs = 1m<sup>2</sup> - 40m<sup>2</sup> of turf will weigh approx 1 tonne).

So to transport larger orders you will need a tandem trailer with brakes, or a one tonne ute.

You can NOT carry more than 30m<sup>2</sup> on any trailer without brakes. Prime slab cut turf is nearly half the weight of a traditional turf roll, making it easier on your back.



## 2 SITE PREPARATION

Quality site preparation is the most critical step to ensuring the best long term result from your turf landscape investment. To avoid weed problems, do not lay turf on top of existing grass, spray existing grass with roundup and remove desiccated weeds from the site.

If your site already has a good base of topsoil (at least 100mm) you can use either a pitchfork or rotary hoe to cultivate the area.

If you have minimal topsoil you will need to import a quality turf underlay from your local sand and soil garden centre.

We recommend a soil depth of 100mm-150mm. We recommend your prepared surface sit approximately 40mm below concrete paths or garden edges. Applications of pelletised fowl manure applied to your prepared surface at 20kg/100m<sup>2</sup> will help with initial moisture retention, while also providing an effective slow release fertiliser.



## 3 LAYING YOUR LAWN

Turf is a perishable product. It is critical you lay your turf as soon as it is delivered.

Before laying, ensure the prepared surface is firm but not packed too tightly, the soil is moist to avoid scalding the roots, especially during warmer months and you rake water crystals through the top 20-30mm of your prepared area to enhance moisture retention.

Apply fertiliser over prepared surface before laying your lawn. Lay turf along the longest and straightest edge of the prepared site, staggering the joins in a brick-like formation as you go. If laying turf on steep gradients you may have to peg it down to prevent it from moving until roots have initiated. When finished laying, you can use a roller (optional) to ensure good soil-turf contact.

## 4 WATERING

Protect your turf landscape investment and take the guess work out of dragging hoses around and install an automated irrigation system!



New turf needs regular attention and lots of TLC during the first stages of establishment to ensure you get the best result long term. Once your turf is established it will require minimal care. But it is critical that it is successfully transplanted into your new environment.

Ensure you keep turf moist until roots have established. Depending on time of year and degree of heat during establishment period, establishment time could vary anywhere from between 2-3 weeks or 5-6 weeks.

If you are using subsurface irrigation, it is critical to water turf from above during establishment. Water requirements will vary during establishment pending climate conditions, soil type, and gradient of area. To minimise water requirements during establishment we recommend starter fertiliser and water crystals.

Water the turf immediately after laying and then 2 to 3 times a day for at least a fortnight. Keep traffic to a minimum during the first 6 weeks.

## 5 MOWING

You may start to mow your new lawn as soon as the turf is firmly rooted (generally about 2 to 3 weeks - root establishment may take longer during cooler months). When mowing, ensure your blades are always sharp to prevent plant injury.

Mowing height will vary for each variety and to suit the primary function of lawn area.



## 6 FERTILISING

To ensure the best results long term it is critical you FERTILISE your new turf 5-6 weeks after installation. This is the final step in the installation process.



## ANNUAL LAWN MAINTENANCE

**November – February:** De-thatch your lawn if it starts to feel spongy.

Apply Lawn Solutions fertiliser after de-thatching to enhance your lawn's speed of recovery.

**April:** Apply Lawn Solutions fertiliser (critical to prepare your lawn for winter)

**May:** Apply Lawn Solutions fertiliser

**June:** Apply Seasol (a plant conditioner to help protect your lawn from frost and promote winter colour retention)

**July & August:** Apply Seasol

**September & October:** Apply Lawn Solutions fertiliser (critical to help your lawn recover from Winter).

**NB.** This is a guide only. If your lawn incurs any additional stress it may require further management.

256 McSwain Road,  
Echuca, VIC 3564

1800 055 515  
info@coolturf.com.au

www.coolturf.com.au

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