

## LAWN INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Daleys Turf are proud to have supplied you with your premium new lawn turn. It's important to remember that your new lawn should be laid within twenty-four hours of receiving your freshly cut Daleys Turf. Here's your essential guide to creating the 'Best Lawn in the Street'.

### YOUR GUIDE TO A HEALTHY LAWN

#### Water! Water!

The most important thing to do for your new lawn is water immediately after you begin laying. During the establishment of your lawn (seven to fourteen days) constant watering will be required to make sure that the new turf matt doesn't dry out. After fourteen days refer to watering section.

#### First Mow

It is essential that your new lawn is mowed as soon as it can't be lifted from the soil (except in shady conditions). Your first mow should be approximately 45mm, this is measured from the soil surface to the top of the grass leaf. On most mowers 45mm is normally the fourth or fifth lowest setting.

#### Fertilising

Be aware that some areas of your lawn may require a different fertiliser program because of changing soil types. We recommend that you fertilise your turf before you lay your lawn and again in three to four weeks time.

#### Lawn Grubs

All new lawns are at risk of lawn grub attack in the summer months so be 'Grub Aware'. Watch out for patches or brown areas as this could be lawn grubs destroying your lawn. You need to act quickly so don't delay and read our helpful lawn grub guide. Alternatively logon to [www.daleysturf.com.au](http://www.daleysturf.com.au) for more information.

**Free Turf Tips to Your Inbox** - Take advantage of our 'Turf Tips' service. Complete your details in the 'Free Lawn Tips and Notification' section of our website. You'll find it under 'Installation and Maintenance'.



## Site Preparation

1. Prior to starting any earthworks, spray 'Round Up™' or glyphosate. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
2. Remove any vegetation and debris using a bobcat, turf cutter or suitable hand tool.
- 3. Use soil conditioner** - For heavy or clayish soils add gypsum at the rate of 25kg/100m<sup>2</sup>. For light and sandy or poor soils add dolomite at the rate of 25kg/100m<sup>2</sup>.
4. Add soil as needed to achieve at least 50-75mm. Ask for underturf mix. Allow 35-40mm below footpaths and garden edging. Make sure all areas are free draining.
5. Finish off with a light raking or use a screed to level the area ready for laying.

**Helpful Tip:** One cubic metre of soil equals 50mm of soil over 20m<sup>2</sup> of area

## Lawn Installation

To create a healthy lawn you should install your turf within 24 hours of delivery.

1. Before you install your lawn apply a light application of fertiliser over your prepared area at a rate of 2.5kg/100m<sup>2</sup>.
2. Lay one strip around the perimeter then lay turf across the slope in a brick work pattern, press the edges firmly together, but be careful not to overlap them.
3. Cut in with a sharp spade or a serrated knife.
4. Roll your newly installed lawn in a uniform pattern, this helps the turf make good contact with the soil, a second pass may be of benefit.
5. When you have a large area of lawn to lay, watering as you lay your turf is a great idea. Lay a pallet, roll it and then put a sprinkler on the laid area and keep laying.
6. When you have finished installing your lawn, completely soak it, ensuring all parts of the turf are saturated.

**Helpful Tip:** Lift the turf slab up and check that the water has penetrated to the soil



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or call **5494 0470**



## Watering Your Lawn at this Stage is Critical to it's Success!

- Freshly installed lawns need constant moisture to avoid any set back. Be sure to monitor your soil moisture as all soils are different.
- Give your lawn a good soaking after laying, and then continue with lighter applications twice a day as a general rule. In hot or windy weather increase the amount of water, but try not to over water.
- When your lawn is established you should water it once a week to encourage the root system to grow deep and strong. If the grass leaves start to curl this is a good indication that your lawn needs a water.
- Areas in full sun, slopes and exposed areas require more water than shady areas.

## Mowing

- It is important that your new lawn is mowed as soon as it can't be lifted, this usually takes fourteen to twenty one days, depending on the time of year.
- Don't let your lawn get too long before you mow.
- The height to maintain your lawn all year is 40mm for Sir Walter (wintergreen couch will be 25mm). This measurement is made from the soil surface to the top of the grass leaf, use your finger and then measure it on a ruler. On most lawn mowers 40mm will be the third or fourth lowest setting.
- In spring you can drop one setting to lightly renovate your lawn, mow it at least twice at this lower level on the same day then raise it back to normal height (40mm) for the rest of the year.



'Sir Walter' has its own range of lawn care products see [www.daleysturf.com.au](http://www.daleysturf.com.au)

For more information see the 'Lawn Renovation' article on our website

- Always mow in different directions, this stops ruts appearing from the mower's wheels.
- Clippings can be left on the lawn, except when they will clump together in wet weather, dew or when your grass is too long.
- Regular mowing helps control weeds and encourages the lawn to thicken up.
- Your mower should be kept in good condition and your blades sharpened regularly.

**Helpful Tip:** After mowing your lawn it will appreciate a drink (you'll deserve one too!)



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## Fertilising

For a strong, healthy, deep-rooted lawn regular applications of fertiliser are essential. A mixture of organic and artificial fertiliser is recommended to promote steady growth. The best time to fertilise your lawn is during autumn and spring.

Depending on your soil, it may be necessary to fertilise more often in the first couple of years until the roots of the turf have become fully established.

Soil conditioners like dolomite and gypsum should be regularly applied once a year in spring at the rate of 25kg/100m<sup>2</sup>.

See our [www.daleysturf.com.au](http://www.daleysturf.com.au) or call 5494 0470 to find out the best fertiliser product for your needs

**Helpful Tip:** Shady areas require less fertilising. A good rule of thumb is 50 percent less

## Top Dressing

To achieve the best results from a new lawn, top dressing should be carried out in the first spring (your lawn must be older than twelve weeks). This process levels out the lawn, improves drainage and improves the mowing finish.

- The leaf blades should always be showing so don't smother them.
- Use a good clean soil to top dress your lawn.
- If fertilising at the same time it's better to do the fertilising first.
- Use a lawn leveller or a plastic rake to spread the sand.
- When finished top dressing, hose the sand into the lawn for a better finish.

**Free Turf Tips to Your Inbox** - For FREE turf tips and notification of when to fertilise your lawn, complete your details in the 'Free Lawn Tips and Notification' section of our website. You'll find it under 'Installation and Maintenance'.



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## DEALING WITH LAWN GRUBS

There are two types of grubs that affect us here on the coast: Armyworm and Sod Webworm. Both types of worm cause the same damage and are treated in the same way.

Grubs like hot, wet and humid weather conditions so they are a problem in summer and early autumn. Early detection will save the lawn from any unnecessary stress that can be a problem to a newly established lawn. Normally the worms will start in a damp shady area - near trees or buildings - they'll then march across your entire lawn, completely stripping the leaves leaving it brown, bare and straw-like.

### Detection

You can choose one or more of these methods:

- Grubs prefer the greenest areas, so use a hose to flood a healthy area of lawn to drive the grubs to the leaf tips.
- Try pouring a bucket of soapy water over your lawn and look for the grubs to appear.
- Look for orange/black wasps flying over your lawn. These wasps look for a host to lay their eggs so if you see them it's a good indication that there are grubs present.
- Check under the eaves of your home for furry brown patches - these are the cocoons full of lawn grub eggs.

### Treatment

Spray, spread or hose your lawn with an insecticide, there are various types available so you must follow the appropriate label instructions. It is important to break the life cycle of the grubs by respraying in seven to ten days.

If the grubs damage your lawn, you can now fertilise the patches lightly to aid the recovery.

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## Weeds

Unlike other lawn varieties, with regular mowing, fertilising and irrigation, a 'Sir Walter' lawn rarely has a weed problem. This is mainly due to its thick, dense matt that out-competes other plants.

Occasionally, however, a weed persists, in this instance try hand weeding, or use a selective chemical control. We recommend using 'Buffalo Lawn Weed Control' made by Amgrow/Sir Walter at the recommended rates on the label.

## Shade Tips

- Don't scalp your lawn or mow it too frequently in shady areas - raise the mower blades when mowing in these areas. The optimum mowing height should be approximately 50mm (five - six notches) for shadier spots.
- Don't over water your shaded areas where there is poor drainage.
- Don't over fertilise in the shade, your grass generally needs more sun, not fertiliser, when affected by shade.

### For More Shade Information

see [www.daleysturf.com.au](http://www.daleysturf.com.au) or call 5494 0470 and request a shade information sheet from our office

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