Complete Landscape & Lawn Care Guide

This guide is designed to help you care for your newly installed sod, seeded lawn areas, plants, and paver patio features in the Twin Cities area. Follow the instructions closely for long-term success and minimal maintenance headaches.

SOD CARE – Highland Turf (Kentucky Bluegrass)

WATERING

Initial Watering (Day of Installation)
Water immediately after installation. Apply water until the soil beneath the sod is moist to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Check by gently lifting a corner of the sod and inserting a screwdriver to test depth.

Daily Watering – Weeks 1 & 2
Manual Watering: Water every morning and, if hot/dry, again in the late afternoon. Avoid watering late evening to prevent disease.
Irrigation System: Set to run 2–3 cycles per day (10–15 mins per zone each time) to keep soil consistently moist, especially on hot/windy days.

Weeks 3–4
Begin reducing to once daily, early morning. Sod should feel slightly springy to walk on but not soaked. Start skipping every other day in the second half of week 4.

Weeks 5+
Water deeply 2–3 times per week. Adjust based on rainfall and season. Lawns in the sun will dry faster than those in shade. Ensure the soil is moist to 6 inches deep with each watering.

Deep Watering Tip
Apply approximately 1" of water per session. Place a tuna can or shallow container on the lawn — when it's full, you've watered enough.

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MOWING

First Mowing: Once sod is rooted (usually 10–14 days), mow when grass reaches 3.5"–4".
Set your mower to 2.5"–3" and never remove more than 1/3 of the blade height at once.
Keep blades sharp and avoid mowing when wet.

FERTILIZATION

First Application: 6 weeks after install, apply a slow-release, balanced fertilizer.
Maintenance: Fertilize every 8–10 weeks during the growing season (April–October).

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Avoid foot traffic for the first 2–3 weeks. Use stepping stones or temporary walkways. Heavy use when sod is wet may cause root separation or ruts.

SEED CARE – Overseeding or New Lawns

WATERING

Initial Watering: Soak gently to keep the top 1" of soil evenly moist without puddling.
Weeks 1–2: Mist 2–3 times per day manually or set irrigation for 5–10 mins per cycle, multiple times daily.
Weeks 3–4: Reduce to once daily but increase time per watering.
Weeks 5+: Water every other day deeply to encourage root growth.

MOWING

First Mowing: When grass reaches 3"–4" tall. Mow dry, using sharp blades.
Follow the same mowing rules as sod: never remove more than 1/3 blade height.

FERTILIZATION

Apply starter fertilizer 4–6 weeks after the seed has germinated and matured past the first few inches.
Use a nitrogen-rich, slow-release blend for long-term growth.

WEED CONTROL

Do not use herbicide until the lawn is well established (after 3 mowings minimum). Hand-pull weeds in early weeks.

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PLANT CARE – Shrubs, Perennials, and Trees (Minnesota)

WATERING

New Plantings (Weeks 1–4): Water every 1–2 days. Each plant should receive enough water to reach 6–8" deep in the soil.
Established Plants: Water deeply 1–2 times/week. Adjust for rain and temperature.

Sun vs. Shade: Plants in full sun may need more frequent watering. Monitor moisture by checking 2–3" below the surface.

Watering Trees and Large Evergreens (e.g. Arborvitae)

Newly Planted Trees: Water deeply every 2–3 days for the first month. Each tree should receive about 10–15 gallons per watering session. A slow trickle from a hose placed at the base for 20–30 minutes is ideal.

Large Evergreens (such as Arborvitae): Water 2–3 times per week during the first 6–8 weeks. Ensure soil stays consistently moist but not soggy. Continue weekly watering through the first growing season, especially during dry periods. Water at the root zone, not the foliage.

Watering in Fall: Deeply water trees and evergreens in late fall (before ground freezes) to help them enter winter hydrated. This is critical for evergreens, which continue to lose moisture through their needles in winter.

MULCHING

Apply 2–3" of dark brown mulch around plants to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temps. Keep mulch pulled 1–2" back from plant stems.

WINTER PREP (Optional but Recommended)

Mulch: In late fall, reapply or freshen mulch to insulate plant roots from frost heaving.
Wrapping: Wrap sensitive evergreens like arborvitae with burlap to protect from wind burn and deer browsing.
Staking: Stake new trees for their first winter to prevent wind tipping and trunk damage.
Watering: Give trees and shrubs a deep watering in late fall before the ground freezes.

MAINTENANCE

Weed regularly. Prune as needed (varies by plant type). Most perennials should be cut back in fall or early spring. Shrubs and trees have specific timing based on bloom cycles—contact us with questions.
Inspect regularly for pests and diseases.

PAVER PATIO CARE – Sealed Joint Systems

INITIAL CARE

Avoid walking or placing furniture on the patio for 24 hours after installation.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Sweep regularly to remove debris. Remove organic material like leaves to prevent staining.
For spills, use a paver-safe cleaner and rinse thoroughly. Avoid pressure washing unless professionally done.

WINTER CARE

Use plastic shovels or snow blowers with rubber paddles. Do not use metal blades. Avoid salt-based deicers — opt for sand or calcium magnesium acetate.

If you have any specific questions or need on-site guidance, don’t hesitate to reach out to the Evergreen Landscapes team. We’re here to help protect your investment and keep your outdoor spaces thriving.

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