

# NOTICE

## New Sod Maintenance

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Crews have or will soon begin to restore the sod on the project and care must be taken in order that it survives. We ask for your assistance to help ensure the sod receives adequate water and maintenance. **There should be NO foot traffic, pets and/or machinery allowed on the sod during the initial growing period.** The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. Please follow the information below:

### WATERING

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as it has been placed. Your efforts, when combined with the contractor watering the sod for the required 60-day maintenance period, will help ensure the sod will grow and your lawn looking its best. After the initial 60-day sod maintenance period, it will be entirely up to you to water the sod. **Neither the contractor nor the City of Anoka will be responsible for replacing dead sod after the initial 60-day growing period.** Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures. **The rule of thumb for watering new sod is two (2) inches per week done in 3 or 4 applications.** The intent for with watering is to soak the underlying topsoil to encourage the grass roots to penetrate into the soil. More frequent lighter watering is not desirable, as this encourages shallow roots instead of deep roots. During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day. Checking to see if you are watering enough is done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler and measuring the water depth in the container. Any rainfall received during the week can be included in your 2 inches a week watering total. (over)



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## MOWING AND FERTILIZING

**Do not mow your new sod for the first month.** This is the only method by which your sod will develop deep roots. Your new sod should not be mowed until either the grass lies over and mats down when wetted, or the grass goes to seed. Don't be alarmed if either of these conditions does not occur in the first 30 days. **Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the first several months.** Your new sod may die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until next summer.

**If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.** If you do fertilize for fall, remember to use a phosphorus-free fertilizer (i.e. 15-0-0, middle number is phosphorous and should be zero) and follow the manufacturer's instructions on application rates.

## FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Remember, even after your new sod appears to have taken hold; it is not as sturdy as your existing mature lawn. It takes over time for the roots to reach their mature length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still susceptible to dry conditions. Remember to water deeply. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize as described above if the sod begins to yellow. The care and attention given to the new sod now, during initial growth, will assure healthier sod and good appearance next year and for years to come.

