

# LAYING SOD

DIFFICULTY: *EASY*

 VOLUNTEER(S)

 HOURS VARY

## MATERIALS

### PREP

Sod  
(2) 200' tape measures  
Marking flags  
Marking paint  
String line

### SOD LAYOUT

Sod  
Knee pads  
Utility knife  
Sod roller

## PREP LIST

1. Before starting, make sure area is prepped – all existing grass must be removed, area should have a crown or slope of 1% to aid water drainage, if required use fertilizer to raise or lower PH of soil, create plan for maintaining and irrigating the area.
2. Measure/mark the area to be sodded. Use flags at corners, and lay a string line down the center along both axes.
3. Determine total square footage of the site. Calculate how many sq ft of sod will come on each pallet. Create a plan for placement of sod pallets so each pallet can cover the area around where it is placed.
4. Based on that plan, measure/mark area where each pallet will go. Keep center clear for first row of sod. Place the extra pallets of sod around perimeter of the field. Ensure that during sod delivery, drivers respect your layout.

## SOD LAYOUT

1. Lay down first row of sod. Follow string line down center of field so it's straight.
2. Rake out area before laying each sod piece to loosen top layer of soil and optimize rooting.
3. Work outwards from center lines towards edges. Place each piece closely together, but without overlapping, and edges staggered like bricks. If edges begin to line up, use knife to cut piece in half and re-stagger (the knife can also be used to cut around sprinkler heads and other objects in the field).
4. Once majority of the sod is laid, go over it with a sod roller to remove air pockets and allow roots to make firm contact with the soil underneath.
5. Begin watering immediately. Aim to spread inch of water over turf.