



## HINTS & TIPS - For Your Newly Installed Instant Turf

**Y**our new lawn can only achieve its full potential if some preparatory work is carried out prior to laying out rolls or sowing runners.

Perth soil types are generally of a sandy nature and have little capacity to retain nutrients or moisture until the turf is established. It is therefore beneficial that some sort of soil amendment is used prior to installing turf.

It is the addition of a suitable soil and wetting agents to the existing soil, which will aid in the soils' ability to hold moisture and nutrients, giving your lawn the benefits of requiring less water and fertiliser.

When amending soil with any water retention agents or soil improvers e.g. Well decomposed chicken manure, loam, peat, quality landscaping mixes, composted organics, it is imperative that they are incorporated into your soil to a depth of at least 50mm. (This means blending the

amendments and agents into your existing soil.) Clay soils should be covered with at least 75mm of good soil, of a sandy nature. The addition of gypsum to clays soils at the rate of 100 to 150 grams per metre is recommended.

For best soil preparation results, loosen the soil with a rotary hoe or spade to the depth of 50–75mm. Rake and smooth the soil, removing rocks, roots and debris.

Level the area with the back of a rake or levelling board. The ground should then be watered heavily and rolled with a water roller (which can be hired), or use a light plate compactor to re-level if necessary. Final levels should be at least 10–15mm below adjacent paths and driveways.

Prior to laying turf, spread approximately 4kg of lawn starter per 100 m<sup>2</sup>, watering in immediately. A firm, moist soil bed helps achieve a rapid establishment of newly laid lawn.

### EQUIPMENT & WEATER CONDITIONS

#### **Calibrating Your Reticulation / Watering System**

It is important to check your reticulation by placing coffee cups or ice cream containers at each sprinkler station and time how long it takes to put out a MINIMUM of 10mm in each container.

#### **Lawn under Stress?**

Your lawn will appear grey/blue and become crunchy to walk on if it is under stress from lack of water. A close inspection will show the leaf curling from dehydration.

**High Winds** will inhibit the correct water application being received by your lawn. Perform a core sample after a designated watering time to assess that the roots are moist.

### IRRIGATION

If there is fixed reticulation, check that watering is even by placing vertical sided containers

at random under the spray pattern. If the sprinklers are well positioned with the spray overlapping adequately, and the height is set up correctly, water depth in the containers should be reasonably uniform. If not, the sprinklers may need to be repositioned.

The pans can also be used to determine how much water is being applied. Mark a line inside each container, 10mm from the base and note the time taken to reach this level. This gives you the correct time to set your reticulation timer. Use sprinklers with a large droplet size—sprinklers that produce a fine mist only waste water, due to higher evaporation losses & through windy conditions.

It is imperative that current irrigation systems are installed to best practices. (Please check with your local Irrigation supplier for the best option for your property.)

### INSTALLING YOUR TURF

Install your turf immediately upon delivery. Natural instant turf is a living plant that requires ground contact and moisture to survive. In hot weather, protect unlaied turf by placing rolls in the shade and keep moist.

Begin installing turf along the longest straight edge, such as a driveway. Butt and push edges and ends together tightly, without stretching. Avoid gaps and

overlapping of turf. Stagger the joins in each row in a tight brick-like fashion. Use a sharp knife to trim corners and edges.

Avoid leaving small strips at outer edges as they will not retain moisture. Commence watering as soon as sufficient turf has been laid. For best results, water thoroughly once laid, then roll or compact the area.

Please keep your new turf damp at all times in the first 7-10 days.

**REMEMBER: Once your lawn is properly established you should reset your controller to the watering days allocated to your property.**



## Recommended Irrigation Scheduling—Summer

### Summer Establishment - December through March

It is recommended the new lawns should receive 10mm per day for at least 35 days in Summer months. (Please refer to recommended Seasonal Watering schedules below.) Ensure that you check your reticulation as recommended overleaf E.g. If it takes 20 minutes to put out a minimum of 10mm, it is recommended you set the timer as per table recommendations below for each season. Set your timer to run your irrigation system, for example, for 6.5minutes each watering time: Before 9am, midday and 3pm for the first ten days of establishment in summer.

**NOTE:** In Summer months, when the transition has been made to your **Rostered Sprinkler** days, you may need to supplement with hand watering during very hot periods when the evaporation rate is high.

No. of Days	Applications per day	Application Rate (ml)
1 - 14	3	3.5
15 - 21	2	5
22 - 28	1	10
29 - 35	1 Every second day	10
35+	Required sprinkler days	10

**Extreme Temperatures** produce a high evaporation rate resulting in a reduced water application reaching the root level of your lawn. Increase the application rate to 13mm as indicated on your cup measures. High temperatures together with high humidity should only require 10mm.

*Note: Remember to water before 9am, at midday and again at about 3pm for the first 10 days of exemption. After that before 9am and 3pm twice a day to day 17 and then before 9am for once a day watering.*

## Recommended Irrigation Scheduling—Autumn and Spring

No. of Days	Applications per day	Application Rate (ml)
1 - 14	2	4
15 - 28	1	7.5
29 - 35	1 Every second day	7.5
35+	Required sprinkler days	7.5

**Autumn or Spring Establishment—March through May or September through November** - a good time to establish a new lawn. These suggestions are made on the basis of average weather conditions. On warmer days it may be necessary to give your lawn an extra watering. On wet days the sprinklers should be turned off.

*Note: Remember to water before 9am and at 3pm for the first 14 days and before 9am every other day of exemption.*

## Recommended Irrigation Scheduling—Winter

**Winter Establishment— June through August** - the ideal time to establish a new lawn. The TGAWA supports the State government initiative of total winter sprinkler bans for established lawns in average weather conditions. However to establish a new lawn will still require some regular watering if there are dry periods. It is recommended the new lawn should receive up to 4ml per day for at least 30 days if there is no rain. On wet days the sprinklers should be turned off.

No. of Days	Applications per day	Application Rate (ml)
1 - 7	2	2
8 - 14	1	4
15 - 30	1 Every second day	4

Check your irrigation system as recommended on previous page, how long does it takes to put out a minimum of 4mm and water accordingly.

*Note: It is recommended you set the timer to come on TWICE per day: 9:30am, 1:30pm .*

**FURTHER INFORMATION** Please refer to [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) for information on your Rostered Watering Days and eligibility for exemptions whilst establishing your new lawn.