



TANBY GARDEN CENTRE

turf care notes

www.tanbygardencentre.com.au

Phone: (07) 49397200
178 Kinka Beach Road
Yeppoon Qld 4703

Tanby Garden Centre
Colouring Capricornia

Planting New Turf

Preparation

Like most jobs, preparation is the all important thing. If you do not have decent soil to grow turf in you will always be battling and will never have a great lawn. If you have clay soils apply gypsum to the whole yard area, including garden beds. Compacted soil will need to be rotary hoed to approx. 100mm, or alternatively you can bring in coverage of 50mm of sandy loam. Tanby Garden Centre produces Turfsoil which makes an ideal base for this purpose. Sandy soils will only need organic material added to them and for this we recommend our compost product. Check that you do not have ponding (3-5% slope is ideal).

Measuring Up

To measure your garden for turf requirements divide the area into squares, rectangles or triangles. Work out the area of each and then add them up for the total, e.g. 6M x 3M = 18M². (For triangle shape spaces the easiest way is to work out for a square/rectangle and then halve it.)

Planting

Spread organic fertiliser at the recommended rates. (Grassmaster, available from Tanby Garden Centre, rate is 1kg/10M².) Lay turf across the slope in a brick pattern with staggered joints. Generally start on straight edges of house pad and work out.

Watering

Once turf is laid it is important it is watered as quickly as possible. While you are laying turf have a sprinkler coming behind you giving it a good soaking. The initial watering should be enough to soak through the sod and wet the soil underneath. Thereafter turf requires light watering regularly (in summer 3-4 times/day for approx. 10 to 14 days) until it gets its roots into the soil. Once you have resistance from roots to lifting turf, watering can be backed off gradually. This nursing in period for turf can take a month. Eventually the aim is to water your lawn once every 10 days to 2 weeks with a good soaking. The watering frequency will depend on your soil type. The ONLY reason turf will die in the initial 10 days is lack of water. If you let turf get a set-back this may allow weed penetration. If you are planting turf with a restricted water supply, a thin layer of sand over the laid sod will help hold moisture.

Mowing

This should not be attempted until the turf is at least 10 days old. First mowing should be higher than your required height. Bring mower down to your required height one week later. Do not leave initial mowing for more than 20 days.

Grubs

The new roots put down by new turf are the preferred food for Lawn Army Worms. If any unexplained dead spots appear in your new turf there is a 95% chance it will be Lawn Army Worm. Pesticide should be sprayed in the evening as the grubs bury deep into the soil during the day and only come to the surface to feed on your lawn during the night.

Lawn Maintenance

Fertiliser

Organic or organic blend slow release fertilisers are recommended. (The general rate for maintenance with Grassmaster is $\frac{1}{2}$ -1kg/10M²). The frequency of application depends on your soil type, turf type and appearance requirements of your turf. An application of fertiliser every 3-4 months is ideal. We do not recommend chemical fertilisers (ie CK88) as they stimulate very quick growth which then encourages an army worm population explosion. Fertiliser is not essential but a healthy lawn is more resilient to weeds, pests and other stresses and will require less water. A plastic flower pot is quite good for fertilising. Fill it up and walk around shaking it so fertiliser comes out through the holes in the bottom.

Watering

Only water when lawns show signs of stress. A good heavy watering is much better than lots of small waterings. Do not set automatic irrigating systems on and forget them, adjust them to suit the temperature, wind and rainfall. Do not set automatic irrigation systems to come on constantly at night. Grass that is regularly wet at night, especially in warm conditions, is susceptible to fungus and disease. The best time to water is between 4am and 8am.

Mowing

Try to mow regularly so you don't have a heavy amount of clippings which you will have to pick up. With regular mowing clippings can be left on the lawn. As a general rule, taller mowing develops a hardy and efficient root system which requires less watering. Do not take this rule to the extreme as lawns that cannot breathe are susceptible to problems. Turf height should be maintained at between 20 to 40mm. Ensure your mower blades are in good condition and never mow more than one third of your grass off at any one time.

Shade and Trees

Only certain species of grass can handle shade. Palmetto soft leaf Buffalo and Zoysia Shadetuff can handle up to 80% shade. Trees not only shade grass but also suck nutrients from the soil. Lawns grown in shade should be allowed to grow taller for more area to photosynthesise. Areas under trees should also be fed and watered slightly more.

Top Dressing

This should generally not be required if you have good soil, unless water is pooling on your lawn. If this is the case, top dress with sand, raking it in so that the top of the lawn remains exposed. Repeat the procedure until the required levels are achieved. If your turf has been put down on poor soil and lacks vitality, a regular top dressing with an organic top dressing mix will be a great help. A combination of scarifying and top dressing is beneficial for tired old lawns, especially if they are couch species. Top dressing should not be used as a replacement for regular fertilising. Tanby Garden Centre produce and sell an organic top dressing mix.

The Capricorn Coast Garden & Landscaping Destination

- ◇ Palmetto® soft leaf Buffalo, Zoysia Shadetuff®, Tropika & Budget turfs.
- ◇ Bulk & bagged soils, sands, mulches, stones.
- ◇ Extensive nursery full of gorgeous plants.
- ◇ Stunning atrium displaying pots, water features, garden furniture and garden art; event space and the Atrium Coffee Hub.
- ◇ Location of monthly Garden Gatherings.
- ◇ Grow Card Loyalty Programme, growing points for growing gardens.
- ◇ Shop stocked with garden products.
- ◇ Eclectic range of homewares & giftware with a focus on natural materials.
- ◇ Pavers, landscaping timber & cement products.
- ◇ The Atrium Coffee Hub serving organic coffee and locally made treats.
- ◇ Evolving garden landscapes.
- ◇ Garden services and genuine advice.

Garden Centre Hours

8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Saturday

9.00am to 3.00pm Sunday

The Atrium Coffee Hub

9.30am to 2.30pm daily



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