

Especially popular in the North, sodding is a good choice whenever you have an area where seeding is difficult (for example, on slopes) or when you want a lawn in a hurry. Bluegrass sod is the best selection, because bluegrass root systems are second to none for weaving a tight, close-knit turf.

The best times to sod are spring and early fall. When buying sod, choose thin, weed-free rolls (no more than 3/4 to one inch thick). Prepare a soil-bed free from depressions, mounds, and debris. Before laying the sod, fertilize the soil-bed with a plant food high in phosphorus and potassium to promote vigorous root growth. If nitrogen is added, it's wise to use a slow-release, water-insoluble form.

Lay sod by putting one strip against the next. On a slope, lay strips across the hill rather than up and down. Vertical seams should not line up precisely. Follow with a light top-dressing of soil to help fill the cracks between strips, and roll the newly sodded area immediately. Water thoroughly and regularly for about two weeks. Thereafter, follow regular lawn care procedures. Wait until the grass is well established before mowing.