



PRODUCT

INSTALLATION

GUIDE

SITE PREPARATION

LAYING GUIDE

AFTERCARE

WELCOME TO YOUR DREAM GARDEN

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Thank you for purchasing from Harrowden's range of superior living landscape products. This means that you will enjoy your beautiful lawn, wildflower meadow or green roof for years to come and be helping to protect our fragile environment.

We think that's worth celebrating - and we are here to help you every step of the way. We want your project to be a complete success!

As the saying goes, if a job's is worth doing, it is worth doing well, which is why we've put together this installation guide.

It is your guide on how to prepare your site, lay your new turf or install your sedum matting with help covering common aftercare concerns.

If you follow our guide, you will have a garden to be proud of. For more information you can also visit the Turfonline website where we constantly update our online product information under the "Help & Advice" section.



A PERFECT PARTNERSHIP

Wherever you are in the UK, the chances are that you have seen, walked upon or in some way used at least one of the products we grow. Harrowden grows and supplies soft landscaping and green roofing materials for the entire UK gardening and landscaping industry. Our products include garden turf, grass seed, topsoil, Meadowmat wildflower matting and

seed mixes; Enviromat sedum matting and feed.

From the moment we sow our seeds to the day we deliver our products to you; we nurture the young plants with love and expertise. Then it's over to you, but don't worry we are still here to help you complete your project and support you with aftercare advice.

A NATIONAL COMPANY WITH A LOCAL HEART

Harrowden has brought together five of the country's finest turf growers. So, wherever you are, you won't be far from one of our farms or depots.

LET'S GET STARTED!

In this guide you'll find everything you need to know about preparing your site, laying your turf or installing your green roof.

**ALL AROUND
THE UK PEOPLE
EXPERIENCE
OUR SUPERIOR
LIVING
LANDSCAPE
PRODUCTS
EVERY DAY.
NOW YOU ARE
ABOUT TO
EXPERIENCE
FOR YOURSELF
THE BENEFITS
OF CHOOSING
THE UK'S
LEADING TURF
GROWER.**

EQUIPMENT

For the best results we recommend the following:

PRE-TURFING FERTILISER:

Give your new turf the best start by feeding the soil in advance. Our pre-turfing fertiliser - Rapid Roots - contains essential plant nutrients from natural sources – no man-made chemicals – and comes in easy-to-apply granular form. It also means that your new lawn will be quite happy with no additional feeding for a good two months.

You will need approximately 20g per square metre – meaning you should be able to cover roughly 100 square metres from one packet of 2kg.



TURFING TOPSOIL:

Once you have dug over the site a layer of good topsoil will give the new turf the best chance to establish strong roots as quickly as possible. Our DEFRA Grade 1 turfing topsoil contains nutrient-rich and screened loam, fantastic for improving existing soils and easy to rake out to a smooth surface ready for your new turf. As a rule of thumb, 1 bulk bag of topsoil covers 24 square metres to a depth of 25mm.

TURF-LAYING PLANKS:

Simple - but indispensable! A pair of 4-foot planks will help you maintain straight lines, avoid walking directly on the turf and help distribute your weight for really good soil-to-turf contact.

Turf can be harvested and laid all year round. A sharp frost or frozen grounds are the only weather conditions to be avoided when laying turf.



GROUND PREPARATION

STEP 1:

Using a fork or a rotovator, dig the soil well, removing all large stones, roots and other debris. If possible, leave the soil to settle for a few days – then remove any weeds that appear during this time.

STEP 2:

Level the soil by raking it (shallow dips and rises are fine but steep ones will make the lawn difficult to mow). Remove any additional stones that come to the surface; and if you are adding topsoil, do this after raking.

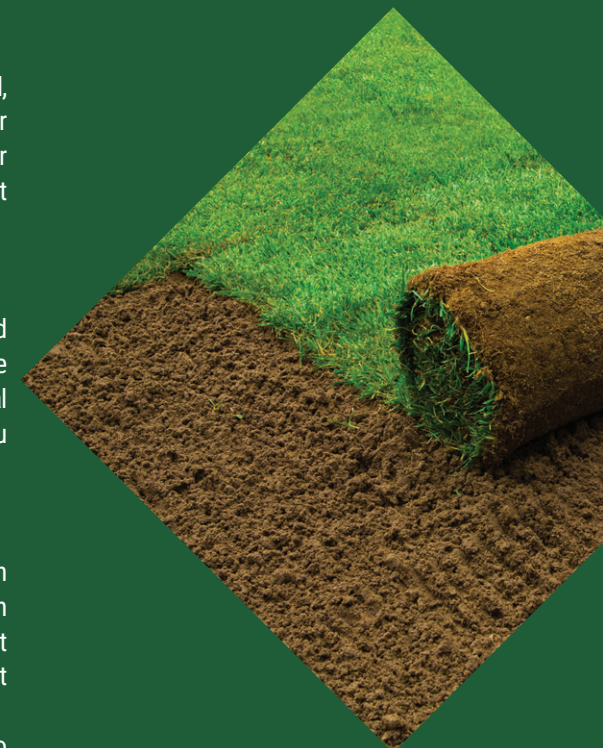
STEP 3:

It's now time to walk slowly up and down the area, letting your heels press down on the soil. This firms the surface but without compacting it. If you can get a friend to help it will save a lot of time!

But, if it's very wet you'll just create mud, so wait for it to dry off a little first.

STEP 4:

Go over the area once more with a rake, working from different directions to create a smooth flat surface. If you're adding a pre-turf fertiliser, do this now and then rake it gently in



to a depth of a few millimetres.

By preparing your ground in advance you will be ready to lay the turf as soon as it arrives. In spring and summer turf should be laid immediately upon delivery to avoid heat stress.

**PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE
WWW.TURFONLINE.CO.UK
FOR A RANGE OF TOOLS,
FEED, TURF AND TOPSOIL TO
ORDER YOUR EQUIPMENT.**



LAYING TURF

STEP 1:

Start from an outside edge – and lay the first strip widthways slightly overlapping the boundary (you can trim this back when you have finished). Press carefully to make good soil contact but without squashing the turf.

STEP 2:

Continue laying adjacent pieces until you have completed the first row of turf along an entire edge. If your delivery arrives on more than one pallet take turf from each pallet as you lay rather than laying a complete pallet and then moving on to the next. This will help to disperse any heat built up during transit.

STEP 3:

Now start the next row. If you need to stand on laid turf, use a plank to avoid denting or squashing it. It is important to stagger successive rows so that the short edges do not line up

(they should alternate like the vertical joins in brickwork).

STEP 4:

Continue like this, butting and pushing the edges for a tight join but being careful not to stretch the turf.

STEP 5:

Finally, trim any untidy edges with an old wood saw or sharp serrated knife – but remember to use the planks to avoid walking directly on the turf as you do it.

STEP 6:

Newly-laid turf must be watered well enough for the water to penetrate the soil but without turning it into a mud bath. Gently pull back a piece to inspect the soil. In hot weather, be sure to water as soon as you have laid your lawn.



**THERE IS MORE GUIDANCE
ON LAYING TURF ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**



LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW TURF

WATERING:

Your new turf must be kept moist until it has fully established. If it's not raining, water the turf yourself. In hot, dry or windy conditions you may have to water two or even three times a day; and water immediately at any sign of the turf drying out or shrinking.

If you do start to see gaps appear between the rows and joins between the turf, then fill those gaps with a soil/seed mix available from our website.

Eventually you will see healthy new white roots when you carefully lift a corner of turf, and you will know these are established when it becomes difficult to pull back the turf.

MOWING:

In spring and summer your new turf will be ready for its first mow in 7-10 days. But make sure it's a gentle cut! You just want to top the grass, so raise the

cutting height and use a grass box. Then continue to cut (twice a week in spring or once a week in summer), never removing more than one third of the current height. If you have laid your turf in the autumn, follow the spring guidelines; but for winter-laid turf, top off only if it is still growing. Otherwise leave it until spring. And remember - always make sure your mower blades are sharp!

FEEDING:

If you have used a pre-turfing fertiliser like Rapid Roots - your new turf will be happy for at least three months. After that, follow a regular feeding regime using the correct seasonal feeds (caution - applying the wrong nutrients can damage your lawn, follow the instructions and water any feed in well).

LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW TURF



TROUBLESHOOTING:

Grass is a very robust plant, and if you have prepared the site properly and followed our laying guidelines you shouldn't have any problems with your new lawn.

But you may notice a few natural phenomena in the first few weeks while it settles into its new environment. After a few weeks it's not uncommon to notice toadstools popping up in the new lawn. This is nothing to worry about and is particularly common in autumn or during warm and wet conditions and will soon sort itself out.



All soil contains dormant fungal spores. These can lay inactive for years – but when the soil is disturbed, they can spring back to life and grow into toadstools. They don't need to be removed – they will disappear after a couple of mows without doing any permanent damage. There are different types of toadstools and most have been tested and shown to be non-toxic. But we advise you take normal precautions to ensure that nobody eats them, just in case. Your new lawn might also develop flowering seed heads. Grass produces these naturally although they are more prevalent in the late spring/summer especially if the weather turns hot and dry (drought conditions).

When turf is harvested most of the root system is cut off. This is stressful to the grass plants and they produce seed heads as a means of self-preservation. The production of seedheads will decline once the new turf has established a new root system, which can take 6-8 weeks. Seedhead production will also reduce if the new lawn receives adequate nutrients and is mowed regularly with a sharp blade.

We have a range of weed treatments, pest controls and disease agents to help keep your lawn green and vigorous.

PREPARING THE SITE FOR SEEDING



The lawn area needs to be well drained. If it suffers from water retention, it may be necessary to lay a soak away or drainage pipes. In a new build location construction waste will make it more difficult to create a lawn successfully so start by removing all large stones, blocks and any non-organic rubbish.

Do not dig in any 'builders' sand' left on the site. In contrast 'sharp sand' will help to condition soil.

A lawn grows best on well drained medium loam. If your soil is already like this, your preparation can be minimal, but if the soil is clay based or sandy, you'll need to consider the following steps.

With heavy clay soils, you should add sharp sand or gypsum soil conditioner. This will help to improve the drainage under the lawn. With sandy soils, add well decomposed manure, compost or rotted leaves. This will improve moisture retention under the lawn.

The top soil needs to be prepared to give a fine, workable soil to a depth of 4 to 5 inches (10 to 12cm). If you are adding organic material, you should aim for a minimum depth of 6 inches (15cm). Small areas can be prepared by hand using a spade but for larger lawns it is worth using a rotavator.

SOWING LAWN SEED

When starting to prepare the soil, it needs to be moist, not too dry or wet. Start by digging or rotavating to the required depth, breaking down large clumps of soil and removing any stones or rubbish. When digging, work backwards so you don't compress the area you've just broken up.

Having turned over the whole site and broken down the soil, add half of anything you need to dig in (sand, organic material), and dig over or rotavate again. Add the rest of the material and repeat.

Rake over the area to level it, removing any vegetation, stones or rubbish which appears before leaving it to settle for a week.

If a lot of weeds or vegetation appears consider using a non-residual herbicide to kill them off. Carefully follow the instructions and leave the soil for the recommended period before proceeding.

Once again rake over the site removing any debris and then tread down the entire area - starting in one corner. Walk slowly across the site placing one foot in front of the other. When you reach the other end, turn around and repeat until complete (if the area is large, ask for help from your friends or family).

The first time you do this, you'll probably find some humps and dips, remove these by



**SEEDING A NEW
LAWN NEEDS
THE SAME
PREPARATION
AS LAYING TURF**

giving the surface a light raking and repeat the treading down. Sow the lawn on a wind free day, making sure to give the ground a final rake. Divide the quantity of seeds into two, (it is better to sow two lighter sowings rather than one big one). If the area to be sown is large, divide the seeds further; this will reduce the chances of covering three quarters of the area and finding that all the seed has gone.

Sow one covering of seeds while walking in one direction, and the second sowing while walking at right-angles to the first. Lightly rake the seed into the top of the soil, you won't cover it all but try to cover at least half.

AFTERCARE

Grass seed should germinate and show through the ground within 7 to 21 days depending on the weather. Do not walk on it during this period. If its dry use a gentle watering technique - (a garden sprinkler or hose with a fine spray attachment pointed skywards) to keep the top soil moist. Be careful as too much water will wash the seed away or create seed concentrations.

If possible, protect the area from birds and domestic pets. Chicken wire is ideal but can be impractical for all but small areas. Tin foil attached to string is a viable alternative.

When the grass is about 1 inch (2.5cm) high, gently roll the area with a light garden roller or cylinder mower (with the blades on the highest setting). Alternatively, you can tread the lawn in the same way as before.

Leave mowing the grass until its about 3 inches (7.5cm) high and then lightly mow with the cutter set to about 2 inch (5cm). If you're not using a cylinder mower lightly roll or tread after cutting.



TOP DRESSING & LAWN FEED

**FEEDING YOUR
LAWN PROVIDES
EXTRANUTRIENTS
TO KEEP YOUR
GRASS IN THE
BEST POSSIBLE
CONDITION**



Top dressing the lawn is the process of adding a fine layer of 'quality soil' to the lawn surface. The quality of the soil will be improved by top dressing over time, sandy soils will drain faster and will suffer more in dry conditions. Clay soils will be able to retain moisture better and so the lawn will be more resistant to drought.

Top dressing will also help to even out any lumps and bumps on an uneven lawn, stimulate the grass to produce new shoots and result in denser grass cover which helps combat the onset of weeds and moss.

Top dressing is carried out routinely by professional greenkeepers to ensure a top-quality finish. If you want a really top-quality lawn that can meet professional standards then you should top dress your lawn annually.

WHAT TOP DRESSING MIXTURE TO USE?

Turfonline has a range of topdressing products available online.

Top dressing your lawn can also help reduce compaction and improves aeration. It encourages increased grass root activity which will improve the ability of the lawn to withstand hard wear and drought conditions. Organic matter will also help to maintain an acid balance in the soil which will encourage healthy growth.

HOW TO TOP DRESS THE LAWN?

In autumn spike the whole lawn area down to a depth of at least 8cm (3 inches) with a garden fork. Spread the top dressing over the lawn with the back of a rake, working it well into the surface and into the holes that have been made.

A single 25ltr bag should be sufficient to top dress 12 square metres. Fill any depressions and avoid creating new humps.



WHEN TO TOP DRESS THE LAWN?

You should top dress the lawn in autumn, ideally between September to the end of November. Lawns which are based on poor soil will benefit from top dressing each year. Lawns based on good quality soil should not need top dressing every year although if you want a really top-class lawn then you may wish to do so.

A healthy lawn provides the perfect backdrop for any garden, a rich, living carpet of green. Lawns benefit from regular feeding. Without extra nutrients grasses soon use up plant food reserves in the soil and then turn pale and thin. Without food to develop side shoots and extra stem thickness, the lawn is open to invasion by weeds and mosses that thrive in low nutrient conditions.

WHAT LAWN FEED SHOULD I USE?

Turfonline has a range of professional lawn feeds available at www.turfonline.co.uk.

You can feed your lawn at any time when it is actively growing and weather conditions allow.

In spring and summer your lawn will appreciate a treatment high in Nitrogen (N) as this promotes green growth. In the autumn apply a feed high in Potassium (K) which will strengthen the grass ahead of the winter. Applying autumn feed will help the lawn green-up more quickly in early spring.

Use a fertiliser spreader to help apply the fertiliser accurately and evenly.



*FOR BEST RESULTS
USE AN ADJUSTABLE
SPREADER THAT
CONTROLS THE
RATE AND SPEED
OF SPREADING.*

WHEN SHOULD I FEED MY LAWN?

Feed your lawn at regular intervals throughout the growing season. Please ensure the appropriate fertiliser is used depending on the time of year. A healthy lawn that receives adequate nutrients applied at the correct time of the year is better able to fend off weeds, moss and disease.

IMPORTANT: HEALTH & SAFETY

Our range of feed is essentially non-hazardous and non-toxic but sensible precautions should still be taken. The buyer assumes all responsibility for safety and use not in accordance with the directions.

- ❗ Avoid eye contact
- ❗ Prolonged skin contact may cause dryness
- ❗ Wear suitable gloves and face protection when handling
- ❗ Remove contaminated clothing immediately
- ❗ Wash hands and exposed skin before eating
- ❗ Could be harmful if swallowed
- ❗ Keep out of the reach of children
- ❗ Always store product in the original packaging

FEED INGREDIENTS:

Nitrogen to promote leaf growth and Magnesium Oxide to aid the production of chlorophyll to encourage a lush, green colour.

Phosphorus to keep the grass roots strong and healthy.

Potassium to help your lawn fight disease and increase its water absorption

Humates and trace elements to stimulate Zeolites to increase nutrient retention so fewer nutrients are washed away.

Seaweed to stimulate soil bacteria to help release nutrients to your lawn.



OUR RANGE OF LAWN FEED



RAPID ROOTS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Nitrogen (N) 8%
Phosphorus Pentoxide (P_2O_5) 4% (1.8% P)
Potassium Oxide (K_2O) 8% (6.66% K)
Magnesium Oxide (MgO) 3% (1.8% Mg)
Sulphur Trioxide (SO_3) 22.6% (10.6% S)
N8-P4-K8 + 3% MgO, trace elements, seaweed, humates, zeolites

APPLICATION:

Pre-seeding or turf feed may be applied at any time of the year although we recommend avoiding hot weather or long periods of drought. Avoid contact with all other surfaces including paving, slabs, tiles, decking or clothing to avoid staining or discolouration.

PRE-TURFING:

Apply to the prepared site at a rate of approximately 20gms per square metre. Work the fertiliser into the soil with a rake so that the granules are dispersed within the top 20-30mm, then proceed to lay your turf. For best results we recommend applying a further application 6 weeks after laying to provide nutrients for the first 6 months.



VIVID GREEN SUMMER LAWN FEED

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Nitrogen (N) 15.6%
Phosphorus Pentoxide (P_2O_5) 3.2% (1.4% P)
Potassium Oxide (K_2O) 8% (6.66% K)
Magnesium Oxide (MgO) 2.4% (1.4% Mg)
Sulphur Trioxide (SO_3) 18.1% (7.2% S)
Iron (Fe) 0.4%
Trace elements, seaweed, humates, zeolites, ONYX

Before applying, mow the lawn at your normal cutting height. This should be approximately 25mm. After aeration or spiking of the lawn apply the fertiliser at a rate of 20gms per square metre evenly over the lawn. If no rain falls two days after application, water in thoroughly. Keep off the lawn for three days, then continue mowing as normal.

OUR RANGE OF LAWN FEED

APPLICATION:

We recommend applying Vivid Green feed twice per year. The first application in March/April, the second in April/May (8 weeks after the first). Ideally try to choose a time when rain is forecast and avoid any frosts.

Before applying, mow the lawn at your normal cutting height. This should be approximately 25mm. If no rain falls two days after application, water in thoroughly. Keep off the lawn for three days. Normal mowing can then be resumed. Avoid contact with all other surfaces including paving, slabs, tiles, decking or clothing to avoid staining or discolouration.

REJUVENATOR AUTUMN/WINTER FEED

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Nitrogen (N) 6.4%
Phosphorus Pentoxide (P_2O_5) 3.2% (1.4% P)
Potassium Oxide (K_2O) 18.3% (5.2% K)
Magnesium Oxide (MgO) 2.4% (1.4% Mg)
Sulphur Trioxide (SO_3) 18.2% (7.3% S)
Iron (Fe) 0.4%
Trace elements, seaweed, zeolites, ONYX

Your lawn needs feeding to maintain the correct balance of nutrients to maintain turf health and colour throughout the winter and conditioned for spring growth. Feeding a lawn in the autumn and winter is important. Just because grass growth slows down doesn't mean it has the nutrients required to stay healthy. During the winter months, the amount of sunlight available to plants is much less than in the summer. It is essential to make use of all available light during the winter months so a lawn can fight off disease. Using the correct balance of nitrogen can encourage the production of chlorophyll which is essential for photosynthesis. Nitrogen to promote leaf growth giving a lush, green appearance. Phosphorus to keep the grass roots strong and healthy. Potassium to help your lawn fight disease and increase its water retention.

APPLICATION:

Apply autumn/winter lawn feed after aeration or spiking your lawn and water in or wait until it rains. Please make sure you avoid frost! Apply at 20g per m.
Rejuvenator can also be used to control moss and thatch in established lawns. Apply at a rate of 100g per m.



LOOKING AFTER YOUR ESTABLISHED LAWN

Maintenance of your lawn is your responsibility. Turf is a living product and therefore has certain basic requirements to remain healthy. There are some common problems to watch out for.

DISEASE:

The most common disease affecting grass is Fusarium Patch Disease, noticeable as yellow-brown patches, and should be treated immediately with a suitable fungicide. To ensure fungicidal penetration into the root zone this might have to be repeated more than once.

PESTS:

The leatherjacket grub, larvae of the crane fly, feeds on grass roots in the spring. They are not normally a problem unless the populations are very large.

Earthworms are responsible for unsightly lumps of mud - worm casts - that usually appear in your lawn in autumn and early spring. But worms actually help aerate and introduce organic matter to the soil. The solution is to brush the casts off prior to mowing.



WEEDS:

Grass is a very competitive plant and if it's in a healthy state, weeds will find it hard to get established. However, weeds are opportunistic and therefore able to establish very rapidly if given a chance. Act quickly to identify the weeds and obtain the appropriate product or better still remove them using a small hand-fork.



LAWN CARE CALENDAR



JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Growth slows right down so there's not much to do. Try to stay off the lawn in frost, and only mow if the grass is still growing. It's a great time for a light hollow-tine aeration to keep the soil oxygenated. And if you haven't serviced the mower and replaced/sharpened the blade(s), do it now!

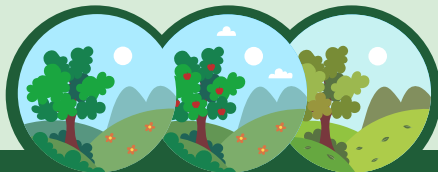
MARCH

The grass is now growing so you'll be out mowing regularly again – but start with a high cut and reduce this over a few weeks. If your lawn is covered in worm casts, brush these off first. Scarify and apply moss treatment to keep moss at bay.



APRIL - MAY

The grass is now growing so you'll be out mowing regularly again – but start with a high cut and reduce this over a few weeks. If your lawn is covered in worm casts, brush these off first. Scarify and apply moss treatment to keep moss at bay.



JUNE - JULY - AUGUST

Apply a summer feed and spot-treat any stubborn weeds. If the weather is hot, you can reduce mowing and raise the cutting height as well – you don't want to stress the grass. Watering isn't really necessary as the grass will recover from dry periods, but if you don't like brown patches, water in the early morning or late evening.



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Use an autumn feed and if necessary, a weed treatment. Give your lawn another hollow-tine aeration to reduce compaction and let the rain and air back into the soil. Begin to mow less often. Worms are again likely to be active at this time of year so remove casts as required.

DECEMBER

One last feed – a winter fertiliser with low nitrogen – and light mowing, and all that's left then is to keep the lawn free of fallen leaves and other debris. Consider a feed that has iron to help strengthen the grass for the coming winter.



TURFONLINE'S LIVING LANDSCAPE

Planting up your garden with green living landscaping is good for your health and your wealth! Research proves it – your mental and physical wellbeing increases when you spend time in the outdoors; and a well-designed and maintained garden is known to add significantly to the value of your property.

So that superb turf pays for itself twice over!

Concrete paving, artificial grass and even decking are falling out of fashion as people rediscover the joys of a living garden – and all the birds, butterflies and bees enjoy it too!

So, we're not just about turf. We have an exclusive range of fabulous living products to help you add vibrant, beautiful life to every corner of your garden.





TURF | WILDFLOWER | GREENROOF | TOPSOIL | SEED



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