

## LAYING AND CARING FOR TURF DURING WARM WEATHER

***This information applies to ALS natural turf, ALS wildflower turf (all types) and ALS Sedum matting***

TURF IS PERISHABLE and the team here at ALS want to help you avoid costly complaints due to burn out. Here are some tips on caring for turf, wildflower turf and sedum matting during the spring and summer months.

### **TURF MUST BE LAID ON THE SAME DAY AS DELIVERY**

- Be ready to lay or install products the moment they arrive.
- In very warm weather, it is wise to lay turf/wildflower turf/sedum matting within 4 hours of delivery.
- Please ensure that you can prepare the soil for turfing BEFORE your turf arrives. Likewise, if you are creating a living roof, prepare the surface in advance of delivery so that there are no delays to installation.
- If the natural soil is sandy or particularly free draining, consider incorporating some good quality topsoil to help with water retention.
- To help you plan your work, Arbour Landscape Solutions will keep in touch with you so that you know when to expect your delivery.
- It is better to order smaller loads over several days than to order more than you can reasonably lay in one session.

**REMEMBER – ALS CANNOT offer refunds on turf that has burnt out due to a delayed installation times. Help us to help you**



Delivery is normally kerb side. ie our driver will offload your turf as close to site as is safely possible. Turf will not be brought round into driveways or back gardens.

A smooth delivery will give you more time for turfing. When you place your order please let us know about things like

- **Potential problems with access.** Do you have room for an artic lorry on site? Are there likely to be cars parked in the way? Is the site busier or quieter at certain times of day (eg are you near a school where access is tricky at drop off times?)
- **Offloading** – do you have a forklift on site? Is the surface suitable for unloading with a pallet truck (ie relatively flat, no loose gravel, sticky mud, steep slopes, steps etc)
- **ALS Can organise a lorry with forklift offload** – talk to us if you would like this service

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T LAY TURF STRAIGHT AWAY

If things don't go to plan and you're not quite ready to lay your turf when it arrives there are some simple steps you can take to help extend the shelf life for a couple of hours.

These tips also apply to sedum matting and to wildflower turf.

- Store rolled turf in a cool shady spot
- Good ventilation and air flow are key – DO NOT cover turf with a tarpaulin – it will cook!
- Re-stack onto several pallets. The smaller the stack, the longer the shelf life will be extended.
- If possible, unroll turf and keep it watered
- NEVER water turf in the roll – it will generate steam and cook itself

## SIGNS OF OVERHEATING IN TURF

Check stored turf frequently and be ready to react if you spot any of these signs

- High temperature in the middle of the stack (please don't push your hand in to test this, you could get burnt. Yes – it really does get that hot!
- Grass sward changing colour. At the slightest sign of yellowing, start unrolling your turf immediately. If the sward is grey or black you're too late – it's already dead and probably cannot be revived.
- Steam – a really bad sign, work fast to get those rolls out – start with the middle of the stack because these will be the hottest.
- Smelly. Turf should smell sweet – like earth. If there is any hint of a sour or acrid smell the product needs to be laid out, cooled down and watered well.

## CARING FOR NEW LAID TURF IN HOT WEATHER



Water turf as soon as it has been laid – you might even want to have somebody watering as you are installing.

The key to successful turfing in warm weather is hydration. Keep that turf really well watered and never let the soil beneath it dry out. That could mean irrigating twice or even three times a day. Lifting a corner of one turf will allow you to check if the soil beneath is moist. Please ensure that your clients fully understand the importance of watering (and the consequences of not watering enough)

Once roots are really well established (ie you can tug on the grass sward without feeling the turf lift up) then you can start to reduce the amount and the frequency of watering.

For sedum matting on an extensive green roof, water to the point of runoff as soon as installation is complete. Repeat daily for 2-3 days and then repeat once a week until the hot weather subsides. Too much water on a sedum roof will encourage grass to grow.

#### **TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE**

Turf shrinkage and/or brown edges to turves indicates a lack of water. Increase the irrigation and consider using a wetting agent

Yellowing grass will usually recover and green up once the roots are in contact with damp soil and the sward can see the sun. Take photos so that you can check progress in a couple of days. Do NOT skimp on the watering. If you have applied pre-turfing fertiliser, recovery will be quicker.

Discoloured bands across the middle of turves is a sign of burnout. The grass may not recuperate sufficiently fast to satisfy your client – it's worth overseeding and keeping the area well-watered to speed up the recovery process.

Grass is straw coloured or brown – lack of water! Overseed and increase the frequency and duration of irrigation.