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Bahia Grass After Care Guidelines

0-10 Days After Installation

- Bahia grass does not require an irrigation system. Simply purchase an impact or oscillating sprinkler for the first few weeks of establishment.
- Water each day at least 15-20 minutes in each area.
- Do no mow.
- Do no fertilize yet.
- Do not worry if the sod appears brown or “dead”. Bahia grass will begin to actively grow and green up with adequate watering. To achieve a greener look sooner, use a turf spreader to apply Milorganite to the newly sodded areas.

10-21 Days After Installation

- Water every other day for approximately 25 minutes. By watering for longer periods of time, you are encouraging root growth deeper into the soil.
- Check to make sure you are watering enough by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn to make sure the soil is moist. The sod should be difficult to pullup – do not force it up. The root system is stablishing and should not be pulled from the soil. Just tug lightly to assure good rooting. If the lawn is not rooting, you may not be watering enough.
- Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn yet.

21+ Days After Installation

- The lawn should be fairly well-rooted and can take normal wear and tear.
- After about 21 days, or when the grass has reached 4 inches high, mow your new sod with the mower set at 3 inches and ensuring the blades are sharp. Never mow more than 1/3 of the total blade height at once.
- Continue mowing every 5-7 days during active growth.
- Monitor your lawn regularly, specifically looking for evidence of mole crickets. If you notice mole crickets, use mole cricket bait.
- Fertilizer isn't necessary for the success of Bahia grass, but for a lush, green look, you may use 16-4-8 in the spring and in the fall, or continue to use Milorganite.