

Instant grassification

Laying pre-grown turf is challenging but possible for the non-professional

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Why turf? Establishing a lawn from seed is cheaper with seeding varying in price from €1-€2.50 per m². Turfing costs from €10 - €14.50 per m². However, the larger the area, the cheaper turfing should be per m². The nature and location of the site is also a factor. For example, if the turves can be driven close to the site and manoeuvred mechanically rather than manually, the time and cost should be lower.

The main benefit of turfing is that a highly manicured lawn can be created almost instantly. Turves can also be used to repair small damaged areas on a lawn.

These might have been caused by humans, pets or pests. Pests come in many shape and forms at different times of the year.

Another benefit of turfing is that it can be laid when seeding would not be desirable or recommended. A good example is the unfavourable weather patterns we experienced in July 2023 this year.

Throughout the month which set a record for rainfall, newly drilled seeded lawns looked like 'paddy fields' as seeds were sometimes washed away.

Turf laying

Good soil preparation in the form of firm, even, debris-free final soil level is key to the successful establishment of turf. Turves should be laid in a staggered pattern, close-butted. They should not be overlapped or stretched.

An over-extended turf creates tension resulting in joints pulling apart, especially if they dry out.

Along edges such as boundary walls, kerbing and paths, full turves should always be used, with cut-offs for infills. Smaller pieces dry out more quickly.

When laying turf avoid walking on the soil surface or directly on the turves. Work from planks (scaffolding boards are ideal) placed on the laid turves. This avoids hollows or cavities in the final lawn.

The person laying the turves should always take care with the position of their boots and avoid their toes digging into, or moving, previously laid turves.



The turfing process: work forwards from planks on top of the turves just laid.



Work boots can create voids and imprints into laid turves. In turn, this can create ruts in the lawn and lead to scalping of the grass at a later stage when mowing.

Turfing on slopes

When turfing on slopes that exceed 30 degrees, turves should be laid in a stretcher bond pattern horizontally or diagonally on the bank.

In some cases, the turves may need to be pinned down using 3-4mm wire pegs in a U shape and at least 15mm in length.

A temporary wooden board in the form of a 4x2 timber should be pegged at the base of the embankment to pre-



Pests on newly laid turf range from starlings, rooks and crows to rabbits, foxes and badgers. In this example, badgers looking for leather-jackets have dug up an established lawn.

vent slippage until the turves have anchored themselves to the soil beneath with their new roots.

Establishing turfed areas

Irrigation is essential to ensure adequate root growth in the early stages of the turves' life, especially during dry periods.

A topdressing with a soil/sand mix will fill in any gaps formed between the turves.