

Best Time to Lay Sod in Ontario: Spring vs Fall Timing Guide

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Quick Reference Guide

1 Check soil temperature at 5 cm depth

You need above 10 degrees Celsius. Use a probe thermometer from any garden centre. Check in the morning in a shaded spot.

2 Confirm the seasonal window

Spring: late April to June 5. Fall: August 25 to October 1. Outside these windows, consult a professional before proceeding.

3 Review the 14-day weather forecast

No heat waves (35+ degrees) or hard frosts forecast within 2 weeks. A cool, overcast day is ideal.

4 Assess existing soil moisture

Dig down 10 cm. Should be moist but not waterlogged. Water 24 hours before if dry. Drainage issue? Address before sodding.

5 Confirm soil preparation is complete

At minimum: 10 cm of quality topsoil, graded to drain away from foundation, pre-fertilized with a starter fertilizer.

6 Arrange your water supply before delivery

You need a hose reaching every corner of the new lawn. Plan for daily watering in the first 2 weeks.

7 Book installation on a weekday morning if possible

Sod should go from pallet to ground within 4 hours of delivery. Weekday morning bookings get fresher-cut sod.

8 Confirm first mow timing with your installer

New sod should not be mowed until it has rooted and resists a firm tug. Usually 10 to 14 days after installation.

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