

New sod rooting troubleshooter

Sodding Canada - First 30 Days Recovery Guide 2026

10 diagnostic checks for week 2 and 3

- 1 Do the lift test at 3 spots on the lawn**
Gently lift a corner of a sod piece. White roots = normal. Loose rug = problem.
- 2 Press the surface for sponge feel**
Spongy or mushy = overwatered. Firm but giving = correct. Hard and dry = underwatered.
- 3 Smell the lawn**
Fresh grass smell = healthy. Sour or musty smell = fungal stress from overwatering.
- 4 Check colour by zone**
Yellow patches in a shape = fungal disease. Uniformly pale = nitrogen stress. Edges brown = dry.
- 5 Check for visible seam gaps**
Seams you can see from 6 feet away need topdressing and sweeping.
- 6 Feel a blade between your fingers**
Soft and pliable = alive. Brittle snap = dead blade, check the crown below.
- 7 Look at the underside soil**
Moist dark soil = healthy base. Dust or crust = compaction or landscape fabric below.
- 8 Record recent weather**
Heat wave of 28+ C the first week stresses sod severely. Water 3x daily until heat breaks.
- 9 Recount your watering schedule**
Underwatered: deep soak 20 to 30 min twice daily for a week. Overwatered: cut to 15 min once daily morning only.
- 10 Call your installer if rooting fails by day 21**
Most pros warranty 30 to 60 days. Photos of the lift test + a written note to the crew.