

## **FCE LISTENING - Yard Work: When People Choose Sod over Seed**

Listen to the news report and Fill in the missing words.

For some people, the road to immediate satisfaction is [ ] with sod. A piece of sod has grass on the top and soil on the bottom. It can [ ] thick [ ] grass without the work or wait required to grow a lawn [ ] seed.

Some [ ] owners are replacing grass [ ] ground covers that require [ ] care and water. But others want a traditional grass lawn. Sod, or turf, might not seem like a farm crop. But farmers [ ] it around the world [ ] everything from homes to sports fields.

Sod farmers [ ] grow different grasses [ ] different conditions. Farmers must cut, fertilize and water the sod often. The crop may not be ready for up to two years. [ ] harvest it in pieces of various lengths and [ ] one meter wide.

Making the best of sod [ ] work. Preparing the ground to lay sod [ ] important and may require [ ] amendments.

David Robson from the University of Illinois Extension says the [ ] results come from moist, richly [ ] black soil. He says that is because the farmer used rich soil to produce the sod, so it might not do well in [ ] soils.

Some gardeners prepare an area by removing the existing [ ] soil and grass. This can be done with a shovel, hoe or sod-cutter [ ]. But live roots or weeds might remain below the surface.

Another preparation [ ] is to till the ground completely. Still another [ ] using an herbicide chemical to kill the existing grass. Sod [ ] also be placed over existing grass. The grass will die [ ] become fertilizer for the sod.

[ ] sod is in place, it needs to be [ ] down firmly. This will remove [ ] pockets and help the sod make contact [ ] the ground and take root. A water-filled drum called a sod roller can be [ ].

Sod can grow at times and in places [ ] growing grass from seed is [ ]. But sod can also have [ ], especially if it was not very fresh. [ ] laid sod needs water -- [ ] water. It can quickly become dry. It will [ ] water two times a day for at least three months. Sod should also be fertilized. And it should be treated with [ ] if the soil is [ ].

Sod can be [ ] to fit a space. [ ] small pieces should not be [ ] along the edges of an area as they [ ] dry out more quickly.

You can find other advice [ ]. For example, we learned that sod [ ] be placed so that the ends [ ] the pieces are all in a line. Instead it should look [ ] a brick pattern on a building.

## TRANSCRIPT AND ANSWERS

For some people, the road to immediate satisfaction is **laid** with sod. A piece of sod has grass on the top and soil on the bottom. It can **provide** thick **green** grass without the work or wait required to grow a lawn **from** seed.

Some **property** owners are replacing grass **with** ground covers that require **less** care and water. But others want a traditional grass lawn. Sod, or turf, might not seem like a farm crop. But farmers **grow** it around the world **for** everything from homes to sports fields.

Sod farmers **often** grow different grasses **for** different conditions. Farmers must cut, fertilize and water the sod often. The crop may not be ready for up to two years. **Farmers** harvest it in pieces of various lengths and **up to** one meter wide.

Making the best of sod **takes** work. Preparing the ground to lay sod **is** important and may require **soil** amendments.

David Robson from the University of Illinois Extension says the **best** results come from moist, richly **organic** black soil. He says that is because the farmer used rich soil to produce the sod, so it might not do well in **clay** soils.

Some gardeners prepare an area by removing the existing **top** soil and grass. This can be done with a shovel, hoe or sod-cutter **machine**. But live roots or weeds might remain below the surface.

Another preparation **method** is to till the ground completely. Still another **involves** using an herbicide chemical to kill the existing grass. Sod **can** also be placed over existing grass. The grass will die **and** become fertilizer for the sod.

**After** sod is in place, it needs to be **pressed** down firmly. This will remove **air** pockets and help the sod make contact **with** the ground and take root. A water-filled drum called a sod roller can be **used**.

Sod can grow at times and in places **where** growing grass from seed is **difficult**. But sod can also have **problems**, especially if it was not very fresh. **Newly** laid sod needs water -- **lots of** water. It can quickly become dry. It will **need** water two times a day for at least three months. Sod should also be fertilized. And it should be treated with **limestone** if the soil is **acidic**.

Sod can be **cut** to fit a space. **But** small pieces should not be **placed** along the edges of an area as they **can** dry out more quickly.

You can find other advice **online**. For example, we learned that sod **should not** be placed so that the ends of the pieces are all in a line. Instead it should look **like** a brick pattern on a building.