



DIY Turf Guide

**Your complete guide to
choosing and laying new turf**

Welcome

Looking to lay a new lawn? Whether you’ve bought a new home or want to renovate an existing lawn, this DIY guide has you covered.

Read on for more information on how to choose the best lawn for your needs, then follow the steps to prepare your site, lay the turf, and help it establish and grow.

Part 1: Choosing Turf

Not all turf is equal. They each have their own unique benefits and will perform differently depending on the location, level of use and care. Use this table to help decide which lawn is best for your home.

Turf type	Key features	Shade tolerance	Drought tolerance	Wear tolerance	Maintenance
Buffalo	Requires less mowing than couch and kikuyu Maintains acceptable winter colour	Heavy shade	Medium	High	Low
Couch	Fine texture, soft to touch High wear tolerance to kids and pets	Full sun	High	Very high	High
Kikuyu	Vigorous grower, recovers well from wear and tear Maintains acceptable winter colour	Full sun	Medium	Very high	High
Zoysia	Requires less mowing than couch and kikuyu Fine-medium leaf texture	Medium-heavy	High	High	Low
Tall Fescue	Grows in heavy shade Frost tolerant - suited to cool and temperate climates	Heavy shade	Medium	High	High

For more detailed information on turf varieties, please see our Varieties of Turf Guide [Click HERE](#)



Part 2: Soil preparation

A lawn is only as good as the soil it grows in. If the soil is hard to dig or drains poorly, the lawn may grow fine in the short term, but will suffer in the long run. The best thing to do is to dig a few holes and do a quick soil analysis.



Take a soil sample, remove any debris and add it to a jar. Fill the jar with water, secure the lid and give it a good shake before placing on a flat surface to settle for an hour. Sand will sink, while clay will float, and silt will sit in between. Once settled, use a ruler to measure the height of each layer and calculate the percentage of sand, silt, and clay.

Soil Type:

Apply these products for optimal soil:

Sandy soil (<10% clay)

Sandy soils have larger particles from which water drains quickly and takes nutrients with it.

Organic matter, e.g., Yates Dynamic Lifter Lawn Food and Wetting agent, e.g., Yates Soil Wetter

Clay soil (>30% clay)

Clay soils have smaller particles which get compacted and have poor drainage.

Gypsum
Organic matter, e.g., Yates Dynamic Lifter Lawn Food.
For soils with heavy clay (>40% clay), it is recommended to apply gypsum to the area at a rate of 1kg/1m2 and rotary hoe/or rake it well into the soil.

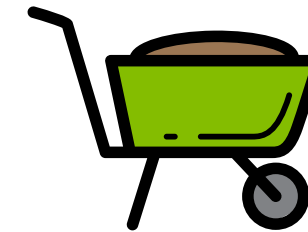


Part 3: Measure and prepare the site

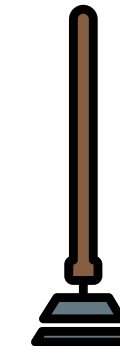
What you need



Measuring tape



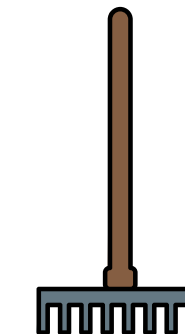
Wheelbarrow



Hoe



Spade



Metal rake



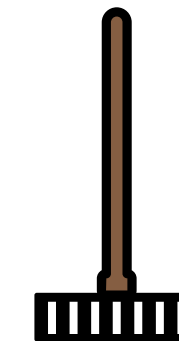
Turf Underlay



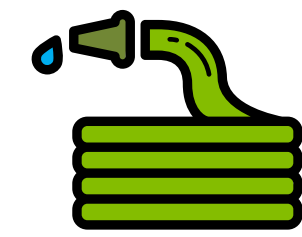
Yates® Dynamic Lifter® Turf Starter



Yates® Zero® Weedkiller



Lawn leveller (optional)



Hose or sprinklers

Step 1. Kill weeds and any existing lawn with Yates Zero® Weedkiller. Leave for 14 days and repeat treatment to kill any new emerging weeds, if required.

Step 2. Rake or hoe to remove dead weeds and grass. Use this time to also dig out any tree roots, stones, or any other debris that may impact root growth.

Step 3. Excavate the top 130 mm of soil in preparation for turf underlay. Turf underlay should be at least 100 mm deep, leaving 30 mm for the turf. This ensures the turf sits flush with existing edges.

Tip! When ordering turf underlay, order a little extra to keep for top dressing any low spots.

Step 4. Measure the area with a tape measure or use the handy measuring tool on the Yates website to accurately size up the lawn for when you order the turf. Add 5 percent (multiple the area by 1.05) for offcuts.

Step 5. Spread Yates Dynamic® Lifter Turf Starter over the topsoil and rake in both directions to mix in well.

Step 6. Use the back of a rake or lawn leveller to level the topsoil.

Part 4: Turf installation

Once the turf arrives, lay it out as soon as possible, otherwise you risk the rolls heating up and browning.



Step 1. Lay the turf around the perimeter of the new area. Ensure you butt the turf edges hard against each other – do not overlap but avoid any gaps.

Tip! Use a rake to pull the turf tightly together and this will prevent the edges from drying out.

Step 2. Starting from the longest edge, lay the turf in a brickwork pattern. The best way to do this is to cut a roll in half (with a sharp spade or Stanley knife) and use it to start every second row so you stagger the joints to prevent drying out and soil erosion. If your area is sloped, make sure you lay across the slope, rather than down it.

Step 3. Use any turf offcuts to fill in gaps, like around pavers or awkward corners.

Step 4. Go over the entire area with a turf roller. This ensures there's good contact between the turf roots and the soil, helping it start rooting faster.

Step 5. Water turf within 30 minutes of laying. It should feel squelchy under foot.



Part 5: Water and maintenance

While the hard part is done, the next six weeks are crucial. It's important not to let the lawn dry out during the establishment period.

How often do I water?

You may need to water at least twice a day, but more on hotter days so that it doesn't dry out underneath the turf. It's a good idea to water once in the morning and again early evening. Consider installing sprinklers to assist with watering.

How much do I water?

When watering, always check underneath to ensure it's wet. You can do this by carefully lifting an edge of the turf to see if the soil is wet. If it's wet, then just water to wet the leaf blades. If not, then give it a good, deep watering. Continue to do this daily for four to six weeks.

When can I reduce watering?

After four to six weeks, carefully check a few areas to see if lawn has 'taken' or established roots. If you can't lift the lawn without applying a good amount of force, then it's a good sign it has established, and you can reduce watering.

How often do I water after it has established?

Once established, this may mean watering only once a day, but increasing the time, so the lawn still gets a deep watering. Continue to reduce to watering, starting with every second day and eventually, it will just need a good soak once a week.

When can I mow?

Now that the lawn is established, you can start mowing too. But don't cut too low - you only want to take off one-third at a time.

When can I feed?

Once established, use an organic fertiliser, like Yates Dynamic[®] Lifter for Lawns. This will help nourish the soil, improving moisture retention, while gently feeding the lawn too.

How to control weeds?

Once established you may get lawn weeds pop up from time to time. Use Yates[®] Weed 'n' Feed[®] for common lawn types and Yates Buffalo PRO[®] Weed 'n' Feed[™] for buffalo lawns to kill weeds and give your lawn a burst of nutrients. Just don't use on new lawns that are less than 3 months old.

Other help and advice:

If you need any help, call the Yates team
of lawn experts on

1300 369 074 or head to the website:

yates.com.au/ask-a-question/

