Sod vs. Seed, the timeless Turfgrass question explained in depth

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Green Velvet Sod Farms

Many great questions have evolved over time:

- Which came first, Chicken or the Egg?
- Why did the Chicken Cross the Road?
- Are Aliens Real?
- Who is Sasquatch
- Who's buried in Grant's tomb?

Pros and cons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sod</th>
<th>Seed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast, Fast, Fast</td>
<td>Much Slower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Expensive $$$</td>
<td>Much Cheaper ... currently ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More labor intensive</td>
<td>Relatively easy for install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer choices for Turfgrass selection</td>
<td>Plant what you want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One and done if done right</td>
<td>Can need overseeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Water requirement</td>
<td>High water requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sod anytime of year</td>
<td>Best results in small seeding window</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOD

SOD vs. SEED

Who's buried in Grant's tomb?
Green Velvet grows about 700 acres of sod Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue. Harvest about 185 acres of sod a year. Irrigated as necessary. Service most of southern half of Ohio.

Sod Installation

- Grade area being prepped
- Improve top soil if possible
- LAY SOD ASAP
- Stagger strips
- Keep seems tight
- Lightly roll when done
- Water, Water, Water!!!
Seeding Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grass Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
<td>2-3 lbs/1000 sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Ryegrass</td>
<td>4-6 lbs/1000 sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Fescue</td>
<td>8-10 lbs/1000 sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Fescue</td>
<td>6-8 lbs/1000 sq ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seed Installation

- Grade out area to be seeded
- Amend top soil if needed
- Evenly spread seed across area
- Make sure seed is in contact with the soil
- Apply cover/mulch if possible
- Apply Starter fertilizer if soil test recommends
- Water lightly and frequently until germination

Economics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tall Fescue Sod</th>
<th>Tall Fescue Seed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0.40/sq ft</td>
<td>$2.25/lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0.40 x 43,560</td>
<td>$2.25 x 10 x 43.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per Acre = $17,424</td>
<td>Cost per Acre = $980.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**2021 Thoughts**

Seed prices took largest jump in recent history
Good seed is becoming harder to come by
Armyworms
Fertilizer markets higher

Questions?