



Site preparation
Turf laying guide
Lawn aftercare
Living landscaping
and more...



HarrowdenTurf

GROWING BETTER TOGETHER



Welcome to Harrowden turf

Welcome and congratulations...

You have made two fantastic decisions:

(1) to install a lawn and (2) to invest in the very best turf available in the UK.

This means that you will enjoy your beautiful lawn for years to come and be helping to protect our fragile environment.

We think that's worth celebrating - and we're here to help you every step of the way. We want your project to be a complete success!

As the saying goes, if a job's worth doing it's worth doing well, which is why we've put together this information booklet. It is your guide on how to prepare the site, lay your new turf and help with any common aftercare concerns.

Follow our guide and you will have a lawn to be proud of.

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A perfect partnership!

From the moment we sow our grass seeds to the day we deliver our beautiful turf to you, we have nurtured the young plants with love and expertise. Then it's over to you, but don't worry...

We're still here to give you advice as you complete your project and to help you understand how best to care for your new lawn.

A national company with a local heart

Harrowden Turf Ltd brings together the country's finest turf growers. So wherever you are, you won't be far from one of our excellent farms.

This means you're buying local turf, more able to adapt happily to your garden or site. And it means a smaller carbon footprint and investing in local people and skills too.

Let's get started!

In this brochure you'll find everything you need to know about choosing your turf, placing your order and laying it when it arrives. But if you have any questions at all, please just contact us.

All around the UK people experience our superior living landscape products every day. And now you are about to experience for yourself the benefits of choosing the UK's leading turf grower.



Introducing your new turf

Grown the way nature intended

Good land for turf cultivation is very hard to find. It has taken us many years to select the perfect location for our farms. Harrowden Turf is grown on some of the finest soil in the country. Rich and fertile it encourages a vigorous root system that allows our turves to establish quickly into any type of soil.

The choice of grass seed used in turf production plays an important part in how the finished lawn will look and perform. We draw on our accumulated knowledge to source varieties for best possible colour, disease resistance, durability and growth habit.

It is then over to our team of turf growers who utilise pioneering techniques and state-of-the-art machinery to ensure the turf you receive meets our high standards. We painstakingly tend to our fields ensuring every roll of turf that leaves our farms is lush, fresh, strong and ready for you to create the perfect lawn. At Harrowden Turf, each load is harvested to order.

Peace of mind guaranteed! All our turf is checked and certified to Turf Growers Association (TGA) standards. If required we can test your turf pre-delivery and supply a TGA quality certificate.

You can't grow the finest living landscaping in factory conditions - so your turf is grown on some of the best-kept farmland in the country.



Selecting the right turf

To make your choice easier we offer two principal varieties, ornamental turf and a fourth option for shady areas all offering excellent performance.

1 Jubilee luxury lawn turf

Developed for the finest landscaping projects, golf tees and tennis courts, our Jubilee turf is a superb choice for any garden. Attractive and easy to maintain, Jubilee turf contains a carefully blended mix of fine-leaved perennial ryegrass, slender creeping red fescue and smooth-stalked meadow grass.

2 Garden Lawn general purpose turf

For sports areas, general landscaping and low-budget projects, our Garden Lawn turf offers great value for money. Additional resilience comes from the blend of dwarf perennial ryegrass, slender creeping red fescue and strong creeping red fescue.

3 Royal Greens ornamental turf

For ornamental lawns, prestige landscaping projects and golf greens. The mix is predominantly fine fescue grasses with a small amount of bent. This turf will withstand close mowing to produce a fine show lawn or green.

Recommended to professional gardeners and greenkeepers only due to high maintenance requirements.

4 Shadesman shade-tolerant turf

For areas in constant shade and with little water, Shadesman turf is the best solution (and will be happy in full sun too). With 100% supranova shade grass, this turf takes much longer to mature and costs more to grow, but offers up to 50% less mowing than a conventional rye lawn.



Preparing your site

1. Equipment

For the best results we recommend the following:

Pre-turfing fertiliser: Give your new turf the best start by feeding the soil in advance. Our pre-turfing fertiliser contains essential plant nutrients from natural sources - no man-made chemicals – and is easy to apply in granular form. It also means that your new lawn will be quite happy with no additional feeding for a good two months. You will need 20g per square metre for heavy soils or 30g for lighter soil.

Turfing topsoil: Having dug over the site (see *page 6*), a layer of topsoil will give the new turf the best chance to establish strong roots as quickly as possible. Our DEFRA Grade 1 turfing topsoil contains nutrient-rich and screened loam, fantastic for improving existing soils and easy to rake out to a smooth surface ready for your new turf. As a rule of thumb, 1 bulk bag of topsoil covers 30 square metres to a depth of one inch.

Turf-laying planks: Simple - but indispensable! This pair of 4-foot long planks will help you maintain straight lines, avoid walking directly on the turf and help distribute compression weight for really good soil-to-turf contact.

Contact us to order your equipment in advance.

Harrowden Turf can be harvested and laid all year round, the only weather that will prevent laying is a sharp frost.



2. Ground preparation

Step 1: Digging Using a fork or a rotovator, dig the soil well, removing all large stones, roots and other debris. If possible, leave the soil to settle for a few days – you can also remove any weeds that appear during this time.

Step 2: Leveling and improving Level the soil by raking it (shallow dips and rises are fine but steep ones will make the lawn difficult to mow). Remove any additional stones that come to the surface; and if you are adding topsoil, do this after raking.

Step 3: Treading It's now time to walk slowly up and down the area, letting your heels press down on the soil. This firms the surface but without compacting it. If you can get a friend to help it will save a lot of time! However, if it's very wet you'll just create mud, so wait for it to dry off a little first.

Step 4: Final raking Go over the area once more with a rake, working from different directions to create a smooth flat surface. If you're adding a pre-turf fertilizer, do this now and then rake it gently in to a depth of a few millimetres.

And now you're now ready to measure up, order and arrange delivery of your new turf...

Laying a new lawn is not difficult - but preparation is everything! The aim is to remove stones, weeds and roots from the site and to improve the condition of the soil.



Ordering Harrowden turf

3. Measuring

It's easier to do this before you start digging the ground but you may find that the outline expands or changes, so check your measurements again before ordering.

If your lawn is a simple rectangle or square, simply measure adjacent edges and multiply these together to get the area in square metres. For more complex lawns, draw a rough diagram breaking the area into squares and rectangles; measure each of these and add up the total area.

NB always add another 5% of the area to your order to compensate for any loss through edge trimming.

4. Ordering

We've made it really easy to order your turf – you just need to tell us the turf variety you've chosen and the area to be covered, along with any special delivery information. However - never order your turf until you have prepared the site and have time put aside to lay it. Freshly cut turf must be laid as soon as possible, ideally within no more than 8 hours from delivery – so you need everything to be ready.

Contact us to order and discuss your delivery day and time.

Calculating Turf

Multiply the width by the length of your lawn area. Add an extra 5% to allow for trimming and wastage.

So, if you have prepared an area 12 metres long x 5 metres wide:

$$12\text{m} \times 5\text{m} = 60\text{m}^2$$

Then add 5%:

$$60\text{m}^2 \times 5 \div 100 = 3\text{m}^2$$

You will need at least:

$$60\text{m}^2 + 3\text{m}^2 = 63\text{m}^2$$



5. Delivery

Delivery is usually within two working days of placing your order. Your turf will be delivered in rolls measuring + or - 5% of 1640mm long x 610mm wide (64" x 24"). If you need to store them for a few hours, unroll them first and water the turf (never water when still rolled up). After watering you can then lay your turf pieces gently on top of each other until you're ready.

Vehicle Access: Please note we cannot deliver to the rear of your house unless there is suitable vehicle access. You may need a wheelbarrow to take the rolls from the pallet to the prepared site.

Cancellation: Your turf is harvested at a precise time, so you must inform us of any changes to your order before 12 noon on the day before delivery (or Friday for a Monday delivery). Full terms and conditions can be found on our website.

It is important to tell Harrowden Turf of any delivery issues or access restrictions.



Laying your new turf

6. Laying turf

Step 1: Start from an outside edge – and lay the first strip widthways slightly overlapping the boundary (you can trim this back when you have finished). Press carefully to make good soil contact but without squashing the turf.

Step 2: Continue laying adjacent pieces until you have completed the first row of turf along an entire edge.

Step 3: Now start the next row. If you need to stand on laid turf, use a plank to avoid denting or squashing it. It is important to stagger successive rows so that the short edges do not line up (they should alternate like the vertical joints in brickwork).

Step 4: Continue like this, butting and pushing the edges for a tight join but being careful not to stretch the turf.

Step 5: Finally you need to trim any untidy edges with an old woodsaw or sharp serrated knife – but remember to use the planks to avoid walking directly on the turf.

Step 6: Newly-laid turf must be watered well enough for the water to penetrate the soil but without turning it into a mud bath. You can gently pull back a piece to inspect the soil. In hot weather, be sure to water as soon as you have laid your lawn.

Laying turf is easy as long as you follow a simple logical process, starting at the edge and working inwards.



7. Looking after your new lawn

Watering: Your new turf must be kept moist until it has fully established. If it's not raining you will need to water it yourself. In hot, dry or windy conditions you may have to water twice or even three times a day; and water immediately at any sign of the turf drying out or shrinking.

If you do find yourselves not giving enough water and gaps appear in between the rows and joins of turf, then fill those gaps with soil/seed mix available from our website.

Eventually you will see healthy new white roots when you carefully lift a corner of turf, and you know these are established when it becomes difficult to pull back the turf.

Mowing: In spring and summer your new turf will be ready for its first mow in 7-10 to days. But make sure it's a gentle cut! You just want to top the grass, so raise the cutting height and use a grass box. Then continue to cut (twice a week in spring or once a week in summer), never removing more than one third of the current height.

If you have laid turf in autumn, follow the spring guidelines; but for winter-laid turf, top off only if it is still growing. Otherwise leave it until spring. And remember - always make sure your mower blade is sharp!

Feeding: If you have used pre-turfing fertiliser (*page 5*) your new turf will be happy for at least two months. After that, follow a regular feeding regime using the correct seasonal feeds (caution - applying the wrong nutrients can damage your lawn).

Troubleshooting: Grass is a very robust plant, and if you have prepared the site properly and followed our laying guidelines you shouldn't have any problems with your new lawn. However, you may notice a few natural phenomenon in the first few weeks while it settles in to its new environment.

After a few weeks it's not uncommon to notice **toadstools** popping up in the new lawn. This is nothing to worry about and is particularly common in autumn or warm and wet conditions and will soon sort itself out.

All soil contains dormant fungal spores. These can lay inactive for years and years – but when the soil is disturbed they can spring back to life and grow into toadstools. You don't need to remove them – they will disappear after a couple of mows without doing any permanent damage.

There are different types of toadstool and most have been tested and shown to be non-toxic. However, we advise you take normal precautions to ensure that youngsters (and inquisitive adults) don't eat them, just in case.

Your new lawn might also develop **flowering seed heads**. Grass produces these naturally although they are more prevalent in the late spring/summer especially if the weather turns hot and dry (drought conditions).

When turf is harvested the majority of the root system is cut off. This is stressful to the grass plants and they produce seed heads as a means of self preservation. The seed heading will reduce once the new turf has established a new root system, which can take 6-8 weeks. Seed heading will also reduce if the new lawn receives adequate nutrients and is mowed regularly with a sharp blade.

For information about disease, weeds and pests that might infect an established lawn please refer to our aftercare guide. (*Page 11*).



Lawn care guide and calendar

Looking after your established lawn

Maintenance of your lawn now becomes your responsibility. Turf is a living product and therefore has certain basic requirements necessary to remain healthy. To help we've listed some common problems to watch out for.

Disease: The most common affecting grass is fusarium patch disease, noticeable as yellow-brown patches, and requires immediate treatment with a suitable fungicide. To ensure fungicidal penetration into the root zone this might have to be repeated more than once.

Pests: The Leatherjacket grub, larvae of the crane fly, feeds on grass roots in the spring. They are not normally a problem unless the populations are very large. Earthworms are responsible for unsightly lumps of mud, worm casts, that usually appear in your lawn in autumn and early spring. The worms actually help aerate and introduce organic matter to the soil. The solution is to brush the casts off prior to mowing.

Weeds: Grass is a very competitive plant and if it's in a healthy state, weeds will find it hard to get established. However, weeds are opportunistic and therefore able to establish very rapidly if given a chance. Act quickly to identify the weeds and obtain the appropriate product or better still remove them using a small hand-fork.

Never forget that your lawn is a living thing and it needs a certain amount of 'TLC' in order to thrive.

Lawn Care Calendar

January – February



Growth slows right down so there's not much to do. Try to stay off the lawn in frost, and only mow if the grass is still growing. It's a great time for a light hollow-tine aeration to keep the soil oxygenated. And if you haven't serviced the mower and replaced/sharpened the blade(s), do it now!

March



The grass is now growing so you'll be out mowing regularly again – but start with a high cut and reduce this over a few weeks. If your lawn is covered in worm casts, brush these off first. Scarify and apply moss treatment to keep moss at bay.

Spring



By now you'll be cutting at least once a week, but never cutting more than one-third of the existing height. Give your lawn a spring feed – a nitrogen-based fertiliser will thicken up the grass and restore a rich green colour. You can also reseed any thinning patches.



Summer



Apply a summer feed and spot-treat any stubborn weeds. If the weather is hot, you can reduce mowing and raise the cutting height as well – you don't want to stress the grass. Watering isn't really necessary as the grass will recover from dry periods, but if you don't like brown patches, water in the early morning or late evening.

Autumn



Use an autumn feed and if necessary a weed treatment. And give your lawn another hollow-tine aeration to reduce compaction and let the rain and air back into the soil. You will begin to mow less often.

Worms are again likely to be active at this time of year so it is advisable to remove casts as required.

Winter



One last feed – a winter fertiliser with low nitrogen – and light mowing, and all that's left then is to keep the lawn free of fallen leaves and other debris.

Consider a feed that has iron to help strengthen the grass for the pending winter period.



Our range of living products

Harrowden's living landscaping

Planting up your garden with green living landscaping is good for your health and your wealth!

Research proves it – your mental and physical wellbeing increases when you spend time in the living outdoors; and a well-designed and maintained garden is known to add significantly to the value of your property. So that superb turf pays for itself twice over!

Concrete paving, artificial grass and even decking are falling out of fashion as people rediscover the joys of a living garden – and all the birds, butterflies and bees enjoy it too!

So, Harrowden doesn't just grow turf. We have an exclusive range of fabulous living products to help you add vibrant and beautiful life to every corner of your garden.

EnviroMat groundcover

EnviroMat is extremely versatile mix of flowering sedum plants chosen for their wide range of colour, texture and seasonal differences. A beautiful alternative to a traditional grass lawn it creates a spectacular ornamental groundcover that will add the wow factor to any landscape scheme.

Enrich your life and take your garden to the next level with Harrowden's complete living landscaping range.





MeadowMat instant wildflower garden

When you're designing your new lawn, why not include a corner or even a central zone for wild flowers?

MeadowMat is a convenient, quick and easy way to establish a wildflower area in your garden. Specially selected mixtures of native and wildlife-friendly flowers and grasses and pregrown on a proven matting system. It's like a private meadow on a roll that will attract wonderful wildlife and reward you with a natural floral display second to none.

EnviroMat green roof systems

EnviroMat sedum matting is a landscaping material used by architects, garden designers and roofing contractors to create living roofs quickly and easily.

With undemanding root systems and requiring minimal maintenance, EnviroMat can be installed in the most unlikely places – shed roofs, on top of chicken houses and bird boxes, etc – there's almost nowhere that can't be cheered up with these delightful little evergreen flowering plants. Bees love it too, so you'll be doing your bit to help our vital pollinating friends!

EnviroMat and MeadowMat provide year round interest and delightful seasonal changes.





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