

A New Look at Foxboro

Foxboro is the home of the New England Patriots and in 1991 the Patriot's management decided on a New Look. They hired a new C.E.O., a new coach and built a new playing surface. They ripped out 93,000 square feet of artificial turf and padding and replaced it with a gravity-drained, sand-based field, emphasizing its exceptional drainage characteristics to minimize turfgrass wear and the natural turf surface to maximize player safety. Irrigation, essential to the success of the sand-based system is provided by 65 Hunter I-40 sprinkler heads.

10 WAYS TO SAVE WATER When Establishing Lawns

Save Water and Money by following these 10 simple methods:

1. **REDUCE STEEP SLOPES IN THE DESIGN:** Level surfaces allow water to penetrate while steeper slopes encourage water run-off.
2. **TEST SOIL AND AMEND:** Create the best possible growing medium with organic materials, pH balance and nutrients.
3. **INSTALL AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:** Water efficiency is greatly improved with a designed system over hoses and especially hand-held sprinklers.
4. **SELECT DROUGHT-RESISTANT VARIETIES:** Scientific grass breeding has developed many varieties of improved turfgrasses.
5. **SOD RATHER THAN SEED:** Turfgrass sod requires 15 to 60 percent less water to establish a lawn than does seeding, depending on the area and conditions.
6. **USE A SOIL PROBE:** Water only when a probe or screw driver is difficult to push into the ground or shows the soil is dry.
7. **WATER IN THE EARLY MORNING OR EVENING:** Less wind drift and lower evaporation rates increase water efficiency use rates.
8. **PREVENT RUN-OFF SITUATIONS:** Apply water for brief periods or at reduced rates to allow greater penetration of the soil before run-off occurs.
9. **MATCH FERTILIZER TO PLANT REQUIREMENTS:** Extension agents or professional agronomists can recommend timing and amounts of fertilizer needed by each grass variety. This reduces waste and mowing needs as well as overly succulent, water-wasting growth.
10. **MOW HIGHER THAN NORMAL WITH A SHARP BLADE:** Larger leaf surfaces hold plant liquids and shade the root zone. Dull mower blades will increase moisture loss from the plant.

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