

About This Directory

Although the information presented in this directory was believed to be current at publication time, variety availability as well as services offered by producers could change.

Retail nursery operations not specializing in either sod production or sod sales were intentionally excluded from this directory because these businesses typically buy their sod from producers listed in this directory for resale and they may not stock sod throughout the year. In addition to locating sod sources in this directory, home consumers may wish to contact their local retail nursery center to determine turfgrass sod varieties available locally.

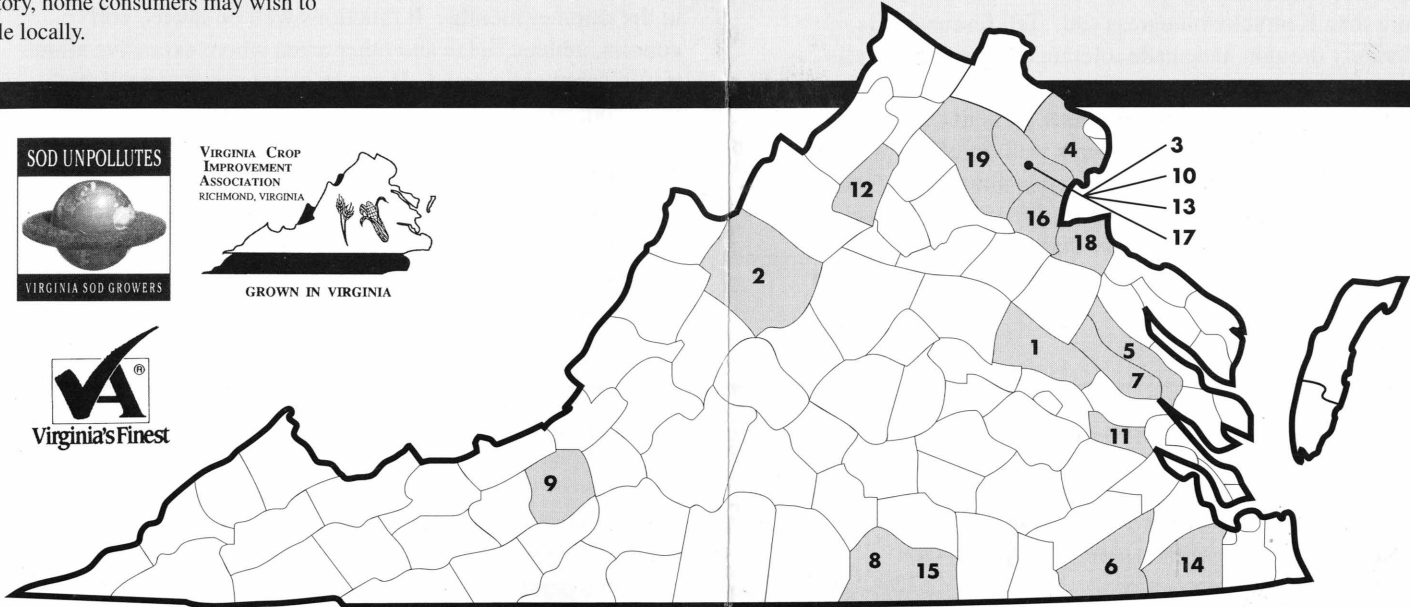
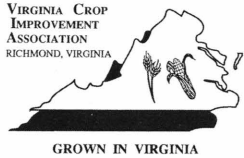
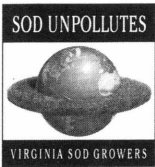
Information presented in this directory was gathered during 1998 in a phone and mail survey of producers in Virginia. Every effort was made to contact all known producers in the state of Virginia. Sod producers or other business entities specializing in the production or sale of turfgrass sod who are not listed in this directory and who wish to be included in the next update of this directory should direct their request to: David R. Chalmers, Extension Agronomist, Turf, Department of CSES, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403.

Map Location Number and Farm Information

VCIA Certified Sod Participant

Types of Sod\*

1. <b>Brookmeade Sod Farm, Inc.</b> Louis L. Brooking, Jr. 14328 Medley Grove Lane Doswell, VA 23407 804-883-6338 804-883-6377 (FAX)	No	BR, TF, Z
2. <b>Buck Hill Farm</b> 797 Oak Hill School Road Mt. Solon, VA 22843 540-350-4141 540-350-4141 (FAX)	Yes	KBB
3. <b>Centreville Sod, Inc.</b> P. O. Box 733 Bristow, VA 20136 703-361-8338 703-361-8338 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF, BT, Z
4. <b>Chantilly Turf Farms, Inc.</b> 25724 Pleasant Valley Rd. Chantilly, VA 20152 - 1375 703-378-3800 703-378-0217 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF
5. <b>Endfield Sod, Inc.</b> P. O. Box 177 1910 Walkerton Road Walkerton, VA 23177 804-769-4545 804-769-1539 (FAX)	No	TF
6. <b>Franklin Turfgrass, Inc.</b> 408 River Road Franklin, VA 23851 757-569-8873 757-569-1673 (FAX)	Yes	TF
7. <b>Frog Hollow Sod Farm, Inc.</b> Route 619, P.O. Box 68 King William, VA 23086 804-769-3700 804-769-0642 (FAX)	No	BE, TF, Z
8. <b>Kidwell Organics, Inc.</b> P.O. Box 48, 9360 Buggs Island Rd. Baskerville, VA 23915 804-689-3115 or 804-689-2863 804-689-3116 (FAX)	Yes	BE, Z



9. <b>Lavery's Sod Farm</b> P.O. Box 550, 4767 North Fork Rd. Elliston, VA 24087 540-268-2016 540-268-1758 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF
10. <b>Kettle Wind Farm</b> 11261 Morla Lane Nokesville, VA 20181 703-594-2709 703-594-3041	No	KBB, TF
11. <b>Meadowspring Turf</b> 17820 The Glebe Lane Charles City, VA 23030 804-829-2696 804-829-6140 (FAX)	Yes	BE, TF, Z
12. <b>Noah Turner &amp; Sons</b> 723 Brady Road Stanley, VA 22851 540-778-2692 540-843-0391 (FAX)	No	KBB
13. <b>Nova Turf Farm</b> 12005 Hazelwood Drive Nokesville, VA 20181-2514 703-594-3406 703-594-3412 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF, Z
14. <b>Southern Belle</b> 14141 Tucker Swamp Road Zuni, VA 23898 757-242-3383 757-242-6557 (FAX)	Yes	BE, TF, Z

15. <b>Southern Turf Nurseries of Virginia</b> 819 Baskerville Road Baskerville, VA 23915 804-689-2831 or 800-338-8283 804-689-2606 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF, BE, Z, C
16. <b>S. Burton &amp; Co., Inc.</b> P.O. Box 147 Hartwood, VA 22471 540-752-2681 or 800-966-2681 540-752-7231 (FAX)	No	KBB
17. <b>Virginia Beef Corporation</b> 1215 James Madison Highway Haymarket, VA 20169 703-754-8873 703-754-0234 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF
18. <b>Woerner Turf</b> P. O. Box 644 King George, VA 22485 540-775-9990 540-775-9677 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF, BE, Z
19. <b>Woodward Turf Farms, Inc.</b> 10002 Burwell Rd. Nokesville, VA 20181 703-335-9899 703-257-7761 (FAX)	Yes	KBB, TF, BE, Z

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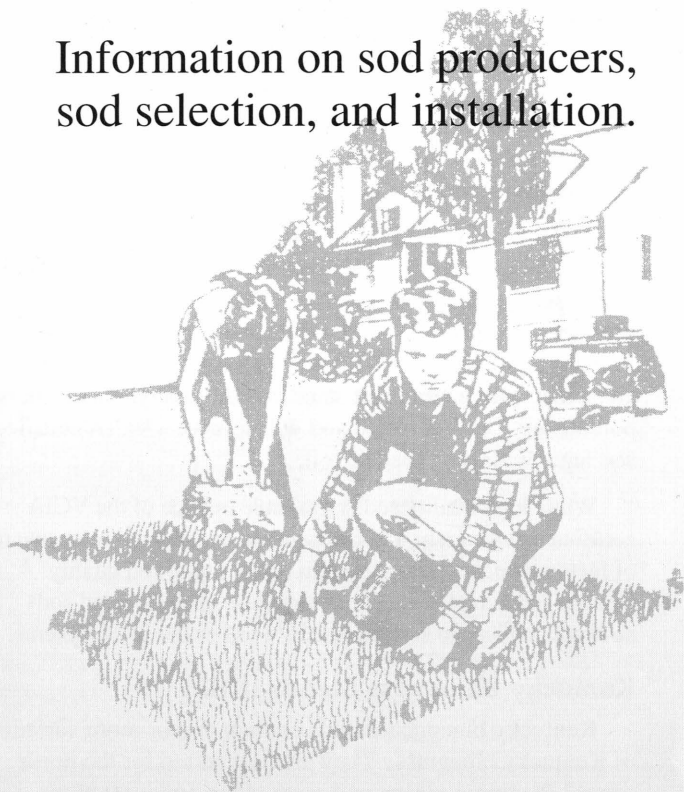
\* BE=Bermudagrass, BT=Bentgrass, C=Centipedegrass, KBB=Kentucky Bluegrass Blend, TF=Tall Fescue or Tall Fescue + Kentucky Bluegrass, Z=Zoysiagrass  
The printing of this publication was funded through a grant from the Virginia Sod Growers Association. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products, trade names or individual growers is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, or Virginia Cooperative Extension is implied.

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# Virginia Sod Directory



Information on sod producers, sod selection, and installation.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Publication 418-040 1999



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Why Sod?

Sodding provides many advantages over seeding:

- 1. Instant green lawn or recreational surface.
- 2. Immediate erosion control.
- 3. Eliminates dust and mud.
- 4. Eliminates weed control during establishment.
- 5. Quickly usable.
- 6. Year-round establishment capability.
- 7. Producers typically grow the best turfgrass varieties.
- 8. Can be used for total installation or repair of smaller areas.

How to decide what type of sod you need.

The basic types of sod being grown in Virginia are Kentucky bluegrass blends, tall fescue or tall fescue-Kentucky bluegrass mixtures, Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. Each of these types of sod is best suited to particular uses and geographic areas in Virginia.

Some sod is grown in the Virginia Crop Improvement Association (VCIA) sod certification program. This sod must meet established standards of quality, which also qualifies the sod to be marketed under the “Virginia’s Finest” program of the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

VCIA certified sod or “Virginia’s Finest” is sod of high quality, meeting rigid standards requiring pre-planting field inspections, prescribed varieties and mixtures, periodic production inspections, and a final pre-harvest inspection. This program serves as a marketing tool and provides the consumer with guaranteed standards of quality. Consumers purchasing VCIA certified sod will receive a VCIA certified sod label with each load of sod.

While high quality sod is available outside of the VCIA certified sod program, the consumer is encouraged to be aware of factors which are important in determining sod quality. Quality sod contains excelient turf varieties with good sod strength and has no serious insect, weed or disease problems.

Kentucky Bluegrass Blends (KBB)

Kentucky bluegrass blends contain two or more varieties of Kentucky bluegrass. They are best suited for the north central Piedmont region and areas along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, requiring moderate to full sunlight, periodic fertilization and irrigation and good soil drainage in order to provide quality turf. Kentucky bluegrass blends can provide high levels of turf quality on lawns, athletic fields, recreational areas, and in situations where erosion control is necessary and moderate maintenance is possible.

Tall Fescue or Tall Fescue-Kentucky Bluegrass Mixtures (TF)

These mixtures generally contain from 90 to 100% improved “turf-type” tall fescues and 0 to 10% Kentucky bluegrass. Tall fescue is a broader-bladed grass than Kentucky bluegrass and therefore this sod has a slightly coarser texture than Kentucky bluegrass sod. Tall fescue sod is moderately drought and shade tolerant and performs well throughout Virginia. It is adapted to a wide range of soil conditions and management programs. It is not well suited to heavily trafficked areas but performs well on lawns, moderately trafficked recreational areas, and in situations where low maintenance erosion control is necessary. Since Kentucky bluegrass withstands traffic better than tall Fescue, it is sometimes mixed with tall fescue to enhance recovery from traffic injury.

Bermudagrass (BE)

Bermudagrass is a warm-season grass that turns straw-colored at the first frost and is dormant in the winter in Virginia. It is best adapted for areas in the south central Piedmont and coastal plain regions. It is very drought and traffic tolerant, requires full sunlight and grows most actively in the summer months. It functions well on lawns, golf courses, athletic fields and other areas where excessive winter traffic is not anticipated. It can be vegetatively established from sod, sprigs, or plugs.

Zoysiagrass (Z)

Zoysiagrass is a warm-season grass that turns straw-colored at the first frost and is dormant in the winter in Virginia. It is best adapted for areas in the south central Piedmont and coastal plain regions. It is drought tolerant and

Before Contacting Growers

If time permits, submit a soil test to your County Extension Office one month prior to preparing the soil so lime and fertilizer recommendations can be followed prior to sod installation.

Measure area to be sodded in square yards or square feet.		
1 square yard = 9 square feet	111.1 sq. yds. = 1000 sq. ft.	
1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft.	1 acre = 4840 sq. yds.	

Determine whether you have the proper vehicle for transporting the amount of sod you need and how many trips will be required.

The safe carrying capacity of vehicles vary:	
<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Sq. Yds.</b>
medium sized car	5 to 10
one half ton pickup	25 to 50
one ton truck	150 to 200
two ton truck	300 to 350
tandem (10 wheel)	500 to 600
tractor trailer (18 wheel)	1000 to 1100

If the soil is wet, less sod can be carried. Dry sod weighs about 20 to 25 lbs. per square yard whereas wet sod can weigh 30 to 40 lbs. per square yard. A pallet of sod will contain 50 to 75 square yards (450 to 675 sq. ft.) of sod.

When Contacting the Grower:

- Know how many square yards or square feet of the particular type of sod you want to purchase.
- Remember that some sod comes with netting to aid in harvest. Netted sod may not be desirable if you anticipate cleated traffic on the sodded area (e.g. athletic fields).
- Determine the services provided and the cost of those services for each grower you contact (e.g. pallet charges).
- Sod farm services vary and can include any of the following:
  - cut your own sod, generally sold by the acre.
  - pick up sod on pallet at farm.

- delivery to site.
- site grading, fertilization, installation.
- post-installation lawn service programs.

- Once you select a grower, call as far ahead of installation time as possible to insure the sod will be available when you need it.

Site Preparation

There are no shortcuts to soil preparation when sodding. Typically, site preparation for sod is identical to seeding to insure transplanting success. Remove existing grass or cultivate it down to a 4-inch depth. Allow time for the soil to settle and then establish the final grade.

To greatly improve chances for long-term success, incorporate fertilizer and lime according to the soil test. If no soil test is available, incorporate to a 4- to 6- inch depth, 20 lbs. of 5-10-5 or 10 lbs. of 10-20-10 and 50 to 100 lbs. of agricultural ground limestone per 1000 square feet.

Rake area until smooth and remove debris and stones.

When Sod is Ready for Pickup or Delivery

- Prepare the site for installation prior to pick-up or delivery. If the soil at the installation site is extremely dry, lightly water it 12 hours prior to installation. Sod is perishable and should be installed within 8 hours of harvest!
- Wear work clothes. If you are buying sod by the roll and are concerned about keeping your vehicle clean, bring something on which to lay the sod.
- **Do not overload your vehicle.**
- On hot days when sod will be transported for an hour or more, use light, vented covers to reduce drying and heat buildup.
- If buying VCIA Certified Sod, request the certification labels with each load you purchase.

When Installing Your Sod:

- Lightly rake the area to be sodded just prior to installation. Sod survival is greatest when installed on relatively moist soil that is cool. Do not install sod on grass, debris, or rocks.

slightly more shade tolerant than Bermudagrass. It functions well on lawns and moderately trafficked recreational areas where excessive winter traffic is not anticipated. It can be established from sod, sprigs, or plugs. Sprigs and plugs generally require two or three growing seasons to provide complete cover.

Centipedegrass (C)

Centipedegrass is a warm season grass that is straw-colored at the first frost and is dormant in the winter in Virginia. Best adapted in the eastern and coastal plain regions around Virginia Beach, it is slow growing and coarse-leafed. Growing well in full sun to moderate shade, it does not tolerate traffic or drought. It nevertheless requires little fertilizer and infrequent mowing. It is best established through sprigs or sod.

- Lay the first line of sod along a straight line such as a driveway, sidewalk, or string stretched between two stakes. Then stagger the sod pieces in the adjacent rows in “brickwork” fashion. Since sod pieces may shrink after installation, push the sod pieces together tightly.

- Try to minimize soil compaction in the installation area by using wheelbarrows to move the sod. Plywood boards laid in heavy tracking areas will minimize compaction.

- Roll sod with a heavy hand roller after you lay it to press roots to the soil.

- Saturate the sod with water immediately after installation, wetting the soil under the sod to a 4-inch depth. Examine the soil under several pieces of sod to insure proper wetting.

When Maintaining Your Sod:

- Begin mowing the sod with a sharp mower as soon as it is rooted. Mow frequently enough so that you never remove more than 1/3 of the existing green tissue.

- Mow Kentucky bluegrass and tall Fescue sods at 2 to 2 1/2 inches and Bermudagrass and Zoysia at 1/2 to 1 inch.

- From October through April, apply water every 2nd or 3rd day for 3 weeks, even if it rains. The rule is to make sure the soil is wet to a 3- to 4-inch depth. In hot weather (above 80 degrees) water the sod daily, wetting the soil thoroughly until the sod is well rooted.

- After the soil is well rooted, irrigate to prevent drought damage.

- VCE Publication 430-011, Lawn Fertilization in Virginia, provides information about fertilization of your newly established sod. This publication is available from your County Extension Office. This as well as other publications can also be accessed via Virginia Tech’s “Turf Topics” Internet homepage at <http://sudan.cses.vt.edu/html/Turf/turfhome.htm>.