

To use sod plugs or not to use sod plugs? If you find yourself here, surely you have asked yourself that question more than once. There are great benefits associated with planting sod plugs. Here are a few:

1. **Grass plugs are economical:** One tray can cover up to 55 square feet, an overall cost that is much less than sod.
2. **Grass plugs are convenient:** Big Earth grass plugs are easier and cleaner to handle than sod.
3. **Grass plugs are versatile:** Big Earth grass plugs are ideal for patching or renovating an existing lawn or to grow an entirely new lawn.
4. **Grass plugs are available in many varieties:** Whether you need a grass that is shade tolerant, cold tolerant, drought tolerant, chinch bug resistant, fast growing or slow growing, thin leafed or broad leafed, there is a Big Earth grass plug available to meet your requirements.

Ready to use sod plugs to create the dream lawn you have always wanted? Big Earth is here to help.

Let's brush up on the basics:

- A sod plug is 3"x3"
- 1 tray has 18 plugs
- Plugs are available in a variety of grasses including St. Augustine Floratam, St. Augustine Palmetto, St. Augustine Seville, St. Augustine Bitter Blue, Empire Zoysia and Celebration Bermuda.

You can plant plugs as close as 6" apart or as far as 18" apart. Depending on the season and the growth rate of the grass variety, you may choose to plant plugs closer for faster results. Reference this chart to figure out how many square feet a tray can cover or how many trays you will need for your area.

Coverage	Spacing					
	6"	8"	10"	12"	15"	18"
50 SQ FT	12	7	4	3	2	1
100 SQ FT	23	13	8	6	4	3
150 SQ FT	34	19	12	9	6	4
200 SQ FT	45	25	16	12	8	5
250 SQ FT	56	32	20	14	9	7
300 SQ FT	67	38	24	17	11	8
350 SQ FT	78	45	28	20	13	9
400 SQ FT	89	51	32	23	15	10
450 SQ FT	100	56	36	25	16	12
500 SQ FT	112	64	40	28	18	14

What is the first step of planting sod plugs? Patience: It is an absolute requirement. If you have patience, keep reading. If not, turn back now!

Let's begin:

1. **Plan Ahead:** Pre-order your sod plugs from Big Earth to be sure they are in stock and fresh cut from the sod field. Determine and confirm the spacing for your sod plugs, but remember to consider the

season and grass variety. Gather the materials you will need for the installation process. This includes a tool to dig holes (we prefer a bulb planter or auger), fertilizer, sod plug trays, watering hose, string and a measuring tape.

2. **Ground Prep:** Mow close to the ground, then water thoroughly to soften the soil. Now, measure the area you plan to plant sod plugs. Using the chart above, you can decide how close or far apart you'd like to plant. Use string to make straight lines to help guide planting. Straight rows of plugs will help them grow together more evenly and of course look better during the growth process.

3. **Dig Holes:** Using a bulb planter or auger, follow the string lines and dig holes for the sod plugs. It is recommended to dig only 18 holes (1 full tray) at a time to keep track of open holes and verify the rows are straight.

4. **Fertilize:** Before installing plugs, apply one tablespoon of 12-12-6 *Plug Fast* slow release fertilizer to holes.

5. **Plant Plugs:** Remove plug from tray and press into hole. Check to be sure there is no air space around the edges of the plug and that the runners are flush to the ground.

6. **Water:** After you have completed installation of 18 plugs, water thoroughly. It is important to water each group before moving on to the next in an effort to help with the establishing period.

You may repeat steps 3-6 until desired area is planted with plugs. After all plugs are installed, water thoroughly every day for 10-20 days for approximately 30-45 minutes. After 20 days, new growth can be seen and watering can be cut to twice weekly.

Are sod plugs the right option for your lifestyle or lawn? Contact Big Earth today to reserve your sod plug trays.