



## **Lay a lawn**

Turf will quickly establish on soil that is warm and moist - autumn is perfect as new turf will also be regularly watered by winter rain. Turf can also be laid in spring, but needs frequent watering to prevent grasses from being put under stress.

When turf arrives, stack rolls in a shady spot and if they appear dry, sprinkle with water. Aim to lay the turf within a day of delivery. If laying is delayed, open the rolls and water them. Don't worry if they turn slightly yellow, they should quickly green-up once laid.

## **Laying turf**

- Prepare the soil by skimming off any old grass, removing large stones and weeds, and then roughly levelling by flattening humps and filling hollows.
- The addition of sharp sand to typical London clay soil will greatly help with drainage, so lightly fork some in if your soil is mostly clay.
- Fork over the site and rake level to leave a fine finish. Firm the soil by walking over, placing weight on your heels and rake again. Sprinkle a granular fertiliser over the soil and lightly rake in.
- Lay your first row along a straight edge, slowly unrolling turf to avoid damaging. Butt each piece up closely to the last and ensure good contact with the soil by tamping down firmly with the back of the rake.
- Lay the next row, making sure the pieces of turf are pushed right up to the first row. Stagger this, and subsequent rows, in a brickwork pattern until the area has been covered.
- Lay turf so it runs beyond the area of your new lawn and trim edges with a straight edged board and a cutting tool. After cutting, scoop up handfuls of soil and put under the edges of the turf to prevent it drying out.
- If possible, set up a sprinkler to water or soak thoroughly with several doses from a watering can.

## **Looking after turf**

Try not to walk on newly laid turf until it has rooted into the soil, which could take several weeks. If the weather is mild over winter the grass will begin to grow. Trim it lightly, keeping the mower blades set high.