

Heather Turf Laying Guide

Preparation

Tillers Heather Turf can be laid from October through to March. Thorough preparation is very important for best results. Don't arrange delivery of your turf before you have fully prepared the soil bed. The preparation of the site is similar to the preparation for normal turf, but there are some very important differences that you must bear in mind.

First, you must ensure that the bed is as free from perennial weeds as possible. The most common perennial weeds you may have to deal with are nettle, dock, thistle and couch grass. A combination of herbicides and fallowing will usually do the trick if time allows. Don't be in too much of a hurry to establish your Heather turf at the expense of eradicating the perennial weeds.

Second, heathers will give better results in poor soils acidic soils than fertile soils and ideally on sites where signs of heather exist of adjacent to heath's where soil types are similar. You might decide, for example, to scrape a few centimetres of topsoil off to expose the subsoil beneath. If the soil is too rich grasses will tend to dominate the heather to a point where you may lose most to grass infestation. Generally speaking, the poorer the soil with a Ph of 4.5 -5.5 is ideal.

A suitable poor acidic top soil could be imported for you to grow the heather on, this ideally should be free draining and slightly raised over surrounding areas so water runs off to maintain this dry heath nature, when used on golf bunker banks and faces the slopes is an environment that the heather thrives on! The heather turf does not degrade as quickly as conventional turf or wildflower mixes when stacked, but laying as soon as possible is advised.

Laying

Heather turf in a golf course environment needs to look natural and heather beds look better in a more erratic natural pattern. Make sure that there is complete contact between the underside of the heather turf and the topsoil. Try not to leave any gaps between the turves because this is where weeds and coarse grasses will try to come in. Lay the turf alongside each other in the same brickwork pattern used in conventional turf, use a sharp edging iron to blend all joints between the turf by chopping the heather edges and trending them together so no gaps or joints exist. If any of cuts are left also use these to plug any gaps.

Watering

Heather turf is very organic and becomes very hydro phobic if aloud to dry out, it can also take several months to root due to the slow growing nature of the plant. Regular light watering not allowing the heather to dry out can be needed until the plants have greened up and rooted then careful monitoring of watering needs over the first season.

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