



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • JULY 2020

Residential Cleanup Update: Sod is Now Available as a Lawn Replacement Option

In an ongoing effort to improve the cleanup process at the Colorado Smelter Superfund site, residents who need a soil cleanup can now select sod as a ground cover option in areas where they previously had a lawn.

Why is EPA Adding Sod?

Sod is being added as an option for a number of reasons but a key consideration has been the amount of time it takes to establish a yard from seed. Cost has also been a factor and thanks to resident referral, we have identified a nearby farm that offers sod at a comparable price to the cost of seed. Sod will provide homeowners instantaneous coverage and is expected to require less involvement by contractors than has been the case for seeded properties. While watering, maintenance and other protocols will still be critical during the first few months, the addition of sod will likely shorten the timeline for residents to achieve the look of a more established lawn.

Isn't Natural Seed More Resilient?

EPA has been using natural seed because this typically usually leads to a stronger root system and provides for better coverage over the lifetime of a lawn. EPA will still offer the option of seed, as well as xeriscaping.

My Seeded Grass isn't filling in. Can I have sod instead?

EPA's federal cleanup partner and their contractor are committed to working with residents to ensure that previously seeded yards result in established lawns. This often involves re-seeding, adding fertilizer and soil amendments, as well as frequent watering by the resident. If you have concerns about your grass filling in we ask that you please contact your property coordinator.

What are lawn replacement options if my yard needs lead and arsenic cleanup?

- Sod (new!)
- Seed
- Xeriscape

Questions about restoration work at your property?

Please contact your property coordinator or the APTIM main office at 719-299-4468

**General Questions?
Contact the Community
Involvement Coordinators:**

EPA

[Jennifer Harrison](#)
303-312-6813 or
harrison.jennifer@epa.gov

[Beth Archer](#)
303-312-6611 or
archer.elizabeth@epa.gov

**Colorado Department of Public
Health & Environment**

[Jeannine Natterman](#)
303-692-3303 or
jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

How Much Water and Maintenance is Needed?

To ensure proper growth, seed or sod will require time to develop roots within the topsoil. Residents will need to follow instructions in the Lawn Care Brochure provided at the time of installation. It is important to note that a lawn will not establish if residents don't continue to water, fertilize and mow between spring and fall. The project offers a one-year observation period after installation, but this only applies if residents follow the lawn care instructions.

Sod: Water three times per day during the first few weeks and twice per day the second month.

Seed: Water two to three times per day the first month and daily during the second month.



Will I Be Reimbursed for Watering?

Yes, for the first 60 days! EPA will reimburse residents after installation of either seed or sod and reimbursement will be provided in the form of a \$100 gift card to residents by their property coordinator at the closeout appointment.