

Connecticut · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

What goes under new sod, by soil-test result, with the state rule and the day-30 feeding. CT Sod · (203) 806-4086 · ctsod.com · sodfertilizer.com · September 2026 · Español on the back



The rule in Connecticut

- New sod: phosphorus allowed when seeding or sodding a new lawn (Public Act 12-155; UConn).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only with a soil test done within the previous 2 years.
- Dates: no phosphate-containing fertilizer on any lawn December 1 - March 15. A phosphorus-free bag has no legal date; UConn recommends fertilizing only April 15 - October 15.
- Buffer: keep phosphate products 20 feet from any body of water. 0.67% phosphate is the threshold.

Before you buy a bag

UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory (soiltesting.cahnr.uconn.edu), modified Morgan. Ask for the lawn recommendation. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

Pallets	Sq ft	UNDER SOD TM bags (1 per pallet)	OVER SOD TM bags (1 per 4 pallets)
1	500	1	1
2	1,000	2	1
4	2,000	4	1
6	3,000	6	2
8	4,000	8	2
10	5,000	10	3
20	10,000	20	5

Four rules that do not change by state

- Whatever goes under the sod goes into the soil, not on top of it. Till or harrow it in, finish grade, lay the same day, roll, water.
- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: UConn, Your Lawn and the Phosphorus Law; UConn Suggested Fertilizer Practices for Lawns. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

New York · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in New York

- New sod: phosphorus allowed on a newly established lawn during its first growing season (ECL 17-2103).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only with a soil test showing it is needed. 0.67% phosphate is the threshold.
- Dates: no lawn fertilizer December 1 - April 1 statewide. Suffolk County: November 1 - April 1. Nassau County: November 15 - April 1.
- Buffer: 20 feet from surface water (3 feet with a drop spreader or deflector); the buffer does not apply to a new lawn in its first growing season.

Note: Long Island: count the day-30 feeding against the county date, not the state date.

Before you buy a bag

Cornell method via Agro-One / Dairy One (Form H), Morgan extraction. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

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- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: NY ECL 17-2103; NYS DEC lawn fertilizer FAQ; Suffolk County LL 41-2007; Nassau County Fertilizer Law. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

Massachusetts · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in Massachusetts

- New sod: phosphorus allowed when a lawn is being established, patched, or renovated (330 CMR 31.00).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only with a UMass-method soil test, valid 3 years. A single application at or under 0.25 lb P₂O₅ per 1,000 sq ft in 12 months is exempt.
- Dates: nothing December 1 - March 1; nothing on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soil; nothing on cold-dormant or brown turf.
- Buffer: 20 feet from water broadcast, 10 feet with a drop spreader. Rates must follow UMass guidelines.

Note: Massachusetts follows the grass, not the calendar: no feeding on dormant turf even on a legal date.

Before you buy a bag

UMass Soil and Plant Nutrient Testing Laboratory, modified Morgan. The form requires a crop code; send one cup, air-dried. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

Pallets	Sq ft	UNDER SOD TM bags (1 per pallet)	OVER SOD TM bags (1 per 4 pallets)
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2	1,000	2	1
4	2,000	4	1
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- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: MDAR, Plant Nutrient Regulations for Turf and Lawns fact sheets (2015, 2018). Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/tt/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

New Jersey · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in New Jersey

- New sod: phosphorus allowed when establishing turf for the first time, repairing turf, or when fertilizer is applied under the soil surface directly to roots (2011 Fertilizer Law).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only with a soil test no more than 3 years old.
- Dates: homeowners November 15 - March 1; professionals December 1 - March 1; nothing on frozen ground or before heavy rain.
- Nitrogen: no more than 0.9 lb total N (0.7 lb water-soluble) per 1,000 sq ft per application, 3.2 lb per year; at least 20% slow-release; professionals must be certified.

Note: Homeowner and professional dates differ by two weeks. The nitrogen cap is per application; follow the rate printed on the bag that ships for New Jersey.

Before you buy a bag

Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory, kit through the county extension office, Mehlich-3. Sample 10-15 cores, 6-7 inches for a new lawn per the kit instructions.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

Pallets	Sq ft	UNDER SOD TM bags (1 per pallet)	OVER SOD TM bags (1 per 4 pallets)
1	500	1	1
2	1,000	2	1
4	2,000	4	1
6	3,000	6	2
8	4,000	8	2
10	5,000	10	3
20	10,000	20	5

Four rules that do not change by state

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- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: Rutgers NJAES, 2011 NJ Fertilizer Law quick facts and news. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

Rhode Island · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in Rhode Island

- No statewide lawn phosphorus law or fertilizer blackout date that we could find in the General Laws or on URI Extension's pages (checked September 2026).
- Follow the same rules as the neighbors anyway: phosphorus only under new sod or on a soil test, nothing on frozen or dormant turf, stay off pavement and away from water.
- Towns near ponds and Narragansett Bay may have local rules. Check before a large job.

Before you buy a bag

URI's Master Gardener program tests pH; for nutrients, send the sample to the UMass or UConn lab and ask for a lawn recommendation. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

Pallets	Sq ft	UNDER SOD TM bags (1 per pallet)	OVER SOD TM bags (1 per 4 pallets)
1	500	1	1
2	1,000	2	1
4	2,000	4	1
6	3,000	6	2
8	4,000	8	2
10	5,000	10	3
20	10,000	20	5

Four rules that do not change by state

- Whatever goes under the sod goes into the soil, not on top of it. Till or harrow it in, finish grade, lay the same day, roll, water.
- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: Absence of a statewide law, checked September 2026. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

New Hampshire · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in New Hampshire

- New sod: phosphorus allowed for establishing or repairing a lawn, but retail turf fertilizer for that use is capped at 0.25 lb P₂O₅ per 1,000 sq ft per application and 0.5 lb per year (RSA 431:4-b, amended January 1, 2025).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only on a new lawn or a soil-test deficiency; no-phosphate turf fertilizer may not exceed 0.5% available phosphate.
- Dates: no statewide date in the statute. Feed only actively growing turf.
- Buffer: keep phosphorus products 25 feet from water and storm drains.

Note: The planned UNDER SOD™ label rate delivers 1 lb P₂O₅ per 1,000 sq ft, above the New Hampshire cap. In New Hampshire, follow the label and rate that ship for this state.

Before you buy a bag

UNH Cooperative Extension Soil Testing Service. Ask for the lawn recommendation. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD™ is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD™ per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SOD™ per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

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- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: NH RSA 431:4-b; UNH Extension fact sheet on the turf fertilizer law. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

Vermont · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

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The rule in Vermont

- New sod: phosphorus allowed when a lawn is being established (10 V.S.A. 1266b).
- Established lawn: phosphorus only with a soil test showing need.
- Dates: no lawn fertilizer October 15 - April 1, the earliest cutoff in the region.
- Buffer: 25 feet from water. Nitrogen must be at least 15% slow-release.

Note: Sod laid September 15 has its 30-day feeding on October 15, the first blocked day. Feed on the 14th if it passes the tug test, or wait until April.

Before you buy a bag

UVM Agricultural and Environmental Testing Laboratory, modified Morgan. Ask for the lawn recommendation. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
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Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P ₂ O ₅ ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P ₂ O ₅ . If UNDER SOD ^{TM2} is also used, count its 1 lb P ₂ O ₅ per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

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- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: 10 V.S.A. 1266b as passed (H.26, 2011); Lake Champlain Committee. Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.

Maine · Sod Fertilizer Job-Site Card

What goes under new sod, by soil-test result, with the state rule and the day-30 feeding. CT Sod · (203) 806-4086 · ctsod.com · sodfertilizer.com · September 2026 · Español on the back



The rule in Maine

- New sod: the retail sign law names establishing a new lawn or turf as an appropriate use of phosphorus (38 MRSA 419).
- Established lawn: signage says phosphorus is not appropriate for lawns unless a soil test shows it is needed.
- Dates: no statewide application blackout; the law works through signs at the point of sale. Feed only actively growing turf, never frozen ground.

Before you buy a bag

Maine Soil Testing Service, University of Maine Analytical Laboratory. Ask for the lawn recommendation. Sample 10-20 cores, top 3-4 inches.

What goes under the sod, by soil-test phosphorus

Test result	Under the sod
No test yet	Test if the sod is a week out. Sod tomorrow on an established lot: assume optimum or high (Cornell found 80%+ of lawn samples had enough phosphorus) and use the incorporated low-phosphorus bag. Sod tomorrow on scraped fill: treat as low.
Below optimum / low	Starter or straight phosphate at the report's rate, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once. Common starters at label rate: Scotts 24-25-4 at 3 lb = 0.75 lb P_2O_5 ; LESCO 18-24-12 at 4.2 lb = 1.0 lb P_2O_5 ; Jonathan Green 12-18-8 at 3 lb = 0.54 lb P_2O_5 . If UNDER SOD TM is also used, count its 1 lb P_2O_5 per 1,000 toward the report.
Optimum / high (the usual result)	No starter. One 25-lb bag of UNDER SOD TM per 500 sq ft pallet, tilled into the top 4-6 inches, once (planned label, spring 2027). Today: Sustane BOLSTER 4-4-4, 5 of 7, carries 3% iron under the sod and its phosphate doubles at the sand rate; or a phosphorus-free slow-release bag at a light rate worked into the surface, no biology, potassium-light.

Then, at day 30

Day 30, after the tug test (grab a corner and pull: if it fights, feed; if it lifts, water and wait): phosphorus-free, mostly slow-release, about 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft. One 25-lb bag of OVER SODTM per four pallets (8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron; planned, spring 2027). Today: LESCO 24-0-11 Poly Plus at 4.2 lb per 1,000 sq ft, 4 of 6; no sod rate on the bag, sweep the iron off walks. Never a starter on top. Check the date line above before you count 30 days.

Quick pallet lookup (500 sq ft per pallet)

Pallets	Sq ft	UNDER SOD TM bags (1 per pallet)	OVER SOD TM bags (1 per 4 pallets)
1	500	1	1
2	1,000	2	1
4	2,000	4	1
6	3,000	6	2
8	4,000	8	2
10	5,000	10	3
20	10,000	20	5

Four rules that do not change by state

- Whatever goes under the sod goes into the soil, not on top of it. Till or harrow it in, finish grade, lay the same day, roll, water.
- Nothing on top for 30 days. Water every day for two weeks. Skip the week-two bag.
- The weld: the 4-2-5 with no iron and four species of mycorrhizae, one 25-lb bag per pallet mixed into the top 4-6 inches, is UNDER SODTM; the 8-0-6 with 2% non-staining iron, one 25-lb bag per four pallets at 30 days, is OVER SODTM.
- Dormant, brown, frozen, or saturated: no feeding, no matter the date.

Source for the rule above: Maine DEP, Lawn Fertilizer and Phosphorus (38 MRSA 419). Rates and label facts are from the products' own labels and the university sources cited at ctsod.com/everything-sod-blog/f/starter-fertilizer-for-sod-do-you-need-it/. UNDER SOD and OVER SOD are planned labels for spring 2027 and are not on any shelf yet; nothing here is legal advice. Follow your soil-test report where it gives a number. Scan the code for the web version and all eight states.