



Chamomile Turf - Laying Instructions and After Care

When the Chamomile Arrives

Your chamomile turf should be laid the day it arrives. If this is not possible remove the square blocks from the box, place as a single layer in full sunlight, and keep damp until you are ready to lay them. Although a complete turf, chamomile is not as strong as normal grass turf, so always handle with care. Support each tile by sliding your hands and forearms underneath.

Ground Preparation

Chamomile thrives in free-draining, slightly acid soil in direct sunlight.

Chamomile is often used in small areas as a feature in the garden. Preparing the soil well will pay dividends in the long term. Soil preparation should be done when the soil is relatively dry to avoid compaction.

Dig the soil over well, removing any large lumps, stones, and weeds. If your soil is a heavy clay, or if it is a chalky soil, incorporate lots of ericaceous compost containing a mix of loam, peat and grit with a pH of 5.6-7.5. Organic matter improves soil structure, and aids drainage.

Rake the soil to achieve a flat surface, and walk over it on your heels to gently consolidate it. Rake again.

Weed Control

Be sure to remove all weeds, especially perennial weeds, from the area to be turfed.

Weeds will inevitably come into your chamomile lawn over a period of time, and it is important to pick out the weed seedlings before they start to compete with the chamomile.

There is no herbicide available to use for the control of weeds in chamomile.

Laying the Chamomile Lawn Turf

The Chamomile turf is grown in peat at a depth of approx. 40mm. It arrives as a 500mm x 500mm square block packed in a box. Butt the sides of each turf closely up to the neighbouring turf, without overlapping. The chamomile should sit just proud of surrounding levels.

If turfs need cutting to shape try to avoid cutting through the base of the parent plants.

The Chamomile leaves can be draped over the joins to make the area appear as though it is one continuous piece.

Watering Chamomile Lawn Turf

Once laid, water the Chamomile and be sure to keep it moist for the first few weeks, without waterlogging the soil. The Chamomile will need water during this early period as its roots will take time to grow into the underlying soil. After the first few weeks, you should only need to water in particularly dry spells. Water lightly if the plants show signs of wilting in hot weather.

Be careful not to over-water the Chamomile as it does not like waterlogged conditions.

Over-wintering Chamomile Lawn Turf

During winter, Chamomile can lose its leaves, which will then grow back again in the spring. Avoid waterlogging as far as possible. If your garden is in a frost pocket, or is very exposed, protect your chamomile lawn with a fleece from your local garden centre.

Maintaining your Chamomile Lawn Turf

Chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*, Treneague) is a creeping herb. The great thing about chamomile is that it doesn't need much mowing. It only grows to a height of 6cms (2.5"). The occasional clipping keeps any long shoots in control and helps sideways spread.

It's worth giving chamomile a light dressing of a controlled release fertiliser every year, especially if you have sandy soil. It's a good idea to sprinkle a mixture of sieved soil and horticultural sand over the lawn each spring, and tread or roll in. This encourages a healthier, denser cushion.

Chamomile Treneague propagates by spreading stolons over the surface that root to form new plants. These can be cut from the main plants and potted up to form new plants which can be used to patch up bare areas of the lawn, or alternatively create a new lawn.

Using your Chamomile Lawn

Feel free to walk on your chamomile lawn. Although it won't stand a lot of wear and tear it actually does it good to be trodden on now and then. Not only does it smell nice, it also encourages the growth of adventitious roots from the runners produced by the parent plants.