



BERMUDAGRASS CULTIVATION

The University of Georgia
Center for Urban Agriculture

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Bermudagrass thrives in hot weather and full sun but performs poorly in shade. It spreads rapidly and requires frequent mowing for best appearance. It exhibits excellent drought resistance. Common (seeded) Bermudagrass is less expensive to establish than hybrid (sodded) Bermudagrass, but hybrid Bermudagrass has greater density, better weed resistance and finer texture and color. All Bermudagrasses have excellent wear tolerance and good recovery from damage.

Hybrid Bermudagrass varieties

'Tifway' ('Tifton 419')
'Tifway II'
'TifSport'

Seeded Bermudagrass varieties

'Arizona common'
'Sahara'
'Yuma'
'Princess-77'

SOIL PREPARATION - NEW LAWNS

1. Kill all weeds by spraying the area with a non-selective weed killer containing glyphosate (RoundUp, etc.) two weeks before planting.
2. Till the soil thoroughly to a depth of six inches, mixing in lime and fertilizer according to soil test results. Slope the soil away from buildings to prevent water collection in unwanted areas.
3. Rake the area smooth, removing rocks, clumps and grassy debris.
4. Roll the area with a water-filled roller to reveal low spots.
5. Fill low spots with soil.
6. Rake lightly and plant.

DISEASE CONTROL

Most lawn diseases are caused by poor cultural practices. Overwatering is most often the culprit.

1. Irrigate after midnight and before noon, allowing the grass to dry before nightfall.
2. Correct disease identification is a must before a fungicide is applied. Call your local Extension office for assistance and advice.

INSECT CONTROL

A healthy, vigorously growing lawn can absorb a great deal of insect pressure without lasting harm.

1. Identify insects or grubs before applying an insecticide. Call your local Extension office for advice.
2. Treatment for white grub control is not necessary unless more than 12 per square foot are found in irrigated turf.

SOIL TESTING

1. Use a clean trowel and plastic bucket. In an area to be tested, take a deep, hearty scoop of soil (a *plug*) from ten randomly selected spots. A plug should be four to six inches deep. Place the plugs in the bucket.
2. Mix the plugs together in the bucket. Remove grass, twigs, stones, etc. This is now a representative sample of all of the soil in a particular area.
3. Call your local County Extension office. (Look in the phone book under the government listings for your county.) They will give you details on how to bring a soil sample to them. There is a nominal charge, in the range of \$4.00 to \$8.00, for each sample.
4. The University of Georgia Soils Laboratory will test your soil and send you a written report on the nutrients it contains. The acidity (pH) of the soil will also be noted. Fertilizer recommendations and schedules are included, along with the amount of lime needed by your soil.

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service and Ft. Valley State College, the USDA and counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and material to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.



BERMUDAGRASS LAWN CALENDAR

	Best month			Possible Month			Marginal month					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
new sod			new sod	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	new sod	new sod
				P	B	B	B	B	P			
B	B	B	B	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	B	B
				P	B	B	B	P				
					P	B	B	P				
				P	B	B	B	P				
									P	B	P	
M	M	P	P	B	B	B	B	P	P	M	M	M
	P	B	P									
OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
				B	B	B	P	P				
									B	P		

MOWING HEIGHT:
Common bermuda: 1"-2" Hybrid bermuda: 1/2"-1 1/2"
Remove no more than 1/3 total height at one time.

WATER:
1 inch per week if no rainfall. Sod laid in fall or winter months must not be allowed to dry; water as needed.

FERTILIZATION:
Use any turf fertilizer. Follow label directions and rate.

IDEAL pH RANGE: 5.5- 6.5
Use dolomitic lime per soil test recommendation. Can be applied at any time.

AERATION:
Use a core aerator during active growth season.

DETHATCH: If thatch exceeds .5" deep use a vertical mower with blades 1" apart; go over the lawn only two directions. Topdressing with .25" of soil is most effective.

SEEDING - NEW LAWN*:
Unhulled seed: 5 - 8 lb. per 1000 sq. feet.
Hulled seed: 1 lb. per 1000 sq. ft.

OVERSEEDING - ESTABLISHED LAWN*:
5 - 10 lb. ryegrass seed per 1000 sq. feet

SODDING
500 sq. ft. per pallet

WEED CONTROL:
Read product label carefully to determine which weeds are controlled and on which grasses the product can be used.

Spring pre-emergent* (prevents crabgrass, goosegrass and other summer weed seeds from sprouting)

Broadleaf post-emergent * (spot spray to kill broadleaf plants like chickweed, wild violet, dandelion, wild onion, etc)

Grassy weed post-emergent* (kills grassy weeds like crabgrass, dallisgrass, etc. Do not apply to drought-stressed Bermuda.)

Winter pre-emergent* (prevents chickweed and other winter weed seeds from sprouting)

*Read weed control product labels carefully. Some products can not be applied to lawns that will be seeded within a few weeks or when transitioning to active growth. March, 2006