

“El Toro” Zoysia

Description: Developed by University of California, medium width leaf blade, dark green.

Aggressive lateral growth, ideal selection for shaded high traffic areas on golf courses, home lawns and athletic fields where bermuda grass isn't suitable.

Mowing Height: ½" - 3"

Wear Resistance: Excellent

Salt Tolerance: Unknown

Fall Color Retention: Good - Dormant in winter

Heat Tolerance: Good

Recovery from Injury: Good

Spring Green-up: Excellent

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Good

Uses: Excellent all-around turfgrass - use on golf courses, home lawns, and utility turf areas.

Available: Turfgrass America

“609” Buffalograss

Description: 609 is a female cultivar of the species *Buchloe dactyloides*, and was selected for its turf-type characteristics. Creates a blue-green, dense, fine-textured, stoloniferous turf. Propagated vegetatively by sod or plugs. Ranked as a top turf-type Buffalograss.

Mowing Height: 1 - 4"

Wear Resistance: Excellent

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Fall Color Retention: Good

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Recovery from Injury: Good

Spring Green-up: Excellent

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Very low

Seedhead Formation: None - all female

Available: Turfgrass America

“Floritam” - St. Augustine

Description: Floritam is a fast-growing, vigorous, broadleafed grass resistant to St. Augustine. Decline. Moderately coarse-textured, fast-growing, dark green grass. Subject to severe winter kill in areas prone to freezes.

Mowing Height: 2" - medium

Wear Resistance: Fair - Will not tolerate heavy traffic.

Salt Tolerance: Good

Fall Color Retention: At first frost

Heat Tolerance: Good

Recovery from Injury: Fair

Spring Green-up: Moderate

Shade Tolerance: Medium - Med. High

Disease Resistance: Tolerant to Brown Patch & chinch bug

Uses: Lawns in South and Southeast Texas

Available: Hernandez Grass Farms, Donna, TX

“Palisades” Zoysia

Description: Palisades Zoysia was developed by Texas A&M and is a medium broad textured, high density turf suited for home lawns, golf fairways and roughs, sports fields, industrial parks and highway medians. Known for its shade tolerance, insect resistance, and low water and fertilizer use.

Mowing Height: ½" to 2"

Wear Resistance: Good, avoid heavy use until fully established.

Salt Tolerance: Good

Fall Color Retention: Good

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Recovery from Injury: Good

Spring Green-up: Excellent

Disease & Insect Resistance: Excellent

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Excellent - comparable to St. Augustine

Wear Resistance: Good

Available: Turfgrass America

Common Bermuda

Description: Common Bermudagrass is a medium-textured, warm season perennial species with a creeping growth habit. It spreads by stolons and rhizomes. It grows rapidly during late spring and summer, remains green into late fall and goes dormant after a hard frost.

Fertilization: Fertilize in Oct-Nov and late Feb.

Mowing: ½" - 1 ½"

Watering: Excellent heat tolerance, & recover

from injury. Wear resistance .

Winter color: dormant.

Weed Control: Apply Roundup © on broadleaf weeds in fall & early spring.

Comments: Usually grows where you don't want it! Once Common Bermuda is introduced or mixed into another variety, it is virtually impossible to eliminate, although many golf superintendents will verify the fact that hybrid bermudas will crowd out Common Bermuda in a two to three year period.

Available: Hernandez Turfgrass Farm, Donna, TX

Native Grass Mix

Buffalograss & Blue Grama

Description : Buffalograss forms a short 5 to 8" sod-forming grass. Will survive on as little as 12 inches of water.

Spreads by seed and surface runners.

Requires full sun. Buffalo has no natural diseases or pests, does not need fertilizer

and withstands extremes of heat or cold.

Prefers loamy or heavy clay soils.

Blue Grama: forms a short, 3 to 6 inch grass that requires about 7 inches of water annually. Tolerates a wide range of soil pH and requires full sun.

Note: These grasses were established by seed then overseeded with Bluebonnet flower seeds for a wildflower meadow appearance. Seeding was 65% native buffalograss and 35% blue grama.

Available: Native American Seed

www.seedsource.com

Junction, TX 76849

(800) 728-4043

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



TURF GRASS TRIAL

Texas AgriLife
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In Cooperation with:
Turfgrass America
Todd Valley Farms
Hernandez Grass farms
Native American Seed

WELCOME to the Turfgrass Trial sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Hidalgo County Master Gardener Association. Our Turfgrass Trial is conducted in three locations in Hidalgo County with the objective of determining the best turf choices for south Texas lawns. We are seeking grasses that withstand our heat and tolerate the high salt levels of our soils and water. These grasses are only watered when necessary, to judge their drought tolerance. Most grasses were installed as squares of sod; however, the Legacy, turf-type, buffalograss is fast growing and was installed by plugs. The only variety that was seeded was the combination of Buffalograss and Blue Grama from the Native American Seed Company, and this plot was over-seeded with wildflowers for those who want a “meadow” look with almost no maintenance.

Most of the grasses are patented and are available through licensed grass farms as sod or plugs. Since beginning the trial in the fall of 2003, we have eliminated one grass, Raliegh - St. Augustine, that we found to be highly susceptible to damage by fungal diseases and several types of insects. The supplier farm for each grass is listed in the turfgrass description. My personal thanks to the team of Master Gardeners, who installed the trials and weekly monitor and care for these three locations: Ned Lynn, Project Leader, Bob Hulett, Max Ganser, and Dianna Obst, as well as, Daniel Bradford of the Alamo F&F 4-H Club.

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Poteet, Texas Farm & Distribution Center
(830) 665-6290
www.turfgrassamerica.com

Hernandez Grass Farms
Donna, TX 78537
(956) 464-2324

Native American Seed
Junction, Texas 76849
(800) 728-4043
www.seedsource.com

Todd Valley Farms, Inc.
Mead, Nebraska 68041
(800) 869-8544 or (402) 624-6385
www.toddvalleyfarms.com

Legacy

TURF - Type Buffalograss

Description: Very aggressive, low growing Buffalograss for home. It can be mowed 1 ½ - 3" or left unmowed to 3-6". Developed by University of Nebraska. Winner of National “Green Thumb” Award for drought tolerance.

Fertilization: After installation, spray with general purpose sod/seed starter fertilizer. After mowing in early spring apply fertilizer with pre-emergent herbicide. Fertilize in late summer.

Mowing: Early spring mow to 1" to remove dormant grass. From then on mow to 1 ½ - 3" as desired. Otherwise leave natural at 3-6".

Watering: Water for 4 weeks until plugs cover entire area. Water in extreme drought when blades wilt or turn purplish/brown. Then water deeply 1-2" a month. Very drought tolerant.

Weed Control: After planting, apply pre-emergent herbicide. Apply Halts and Turf Build Plus © under 85°. Over 85° use Preen and Green© for lawns. Treat perennial weeds with Roundup © when Buffalograss is dormant in Fall or before it greens up in Spring.

Seedhead Formation: None - all female

Available: Todd Valley Farms, Inc.
Mead, Nebraska
800-869-8544 or 402-624-6385
www.toddvalleyfarms.com

“Tifway 419” Bermuda

Description: Greyish Green in color, med. Fine texture. Weed and disease resistant, provides an excellent impact absorbing cushion on lawns & playing fields.

Use on fairways, tees, athletic fields and lawns.

Mowing Height: ½" to 1"

Wear Resistance: Excellent

Salt Tolerance: Very Good

Winter Color: Dormant

Fall Color Retention: Late Discoloration

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Recovery from Injury: Excellent

Spring Green-up: Late

Seedhead Formation: Light

Shade Tolerance: Low

Available: Turfgrass America

GN-1 Bermuda

Description: GN-1 is a hybrid Bermuda developed by Greg Norman Turf Company in California. It is a dark green, medium-fine textured grass recommended for commercial and residential turf areas. It is an ideal sports turfgrass and can be used on golf tees and sports fields.

Mowing Height: ½" - 1"

Wear Resistance: Excellent

Salt Tolerance: Good

Fall Color Retention: Good - Dormant from December thru February

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Recovery from Injury: Excellent

Spring Green-up: Good

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Very low

Seedhead Formation: Little w/proper maintenance

Available: Turfgrass America

“Zorro” Zoysia

Description: A new zoysia, developed by Texas A&M University and nationally renown thru the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP), ranking #1 of all zoysias for its resistance to diseases and shade tolerance. Fine textured.

Mowing Height: ½" - 3"

Wear Resistance: Good - aggressive root system, regrowth from rhizomes.

Salt Tolerance: Good

Fall Color Retention: Good

Heat Tolerance: Good

Recovery from Injury: Good

Spring Green-up: Excellent

Disease & Insect Resistance: Excellent

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Moderate Shade

Available: Turfgrass America

“Sealsle 1” Paspalum

Description: Sealsle 1, *Paspalum vaginatum* O Swartz, is a warm-season grass native to tropical and sub-tropical regions. Grows in coastal environments with warm temperatures and long day lengths. Prostrate-growing grass with rhizomes and stolons (similar growth habit to St. Augustine) with fine leaf structure. The Sealsle 1 cultivar was developed at University of Georgia’s Griffin Experiment Station. Can be used to clean up contaminated soils and water.

Mowing Height: 1" - 2 1/2"

Wear Resistance: Excellent

Salt Tolerance: Excellent

Fall Color Retention: Good

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Recovery from Injury: Good

Spring Green-up: Excellent (the fastest)

Drought Tolerance: Excellent

Shade Tolerance: Very low

Uses: Fairways, tees and roughs, sports turf uses, home and commercial lawns.

Available: Turfgrass America