

Establishment and Management Guide to NaTurf Brand Buffalograss

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Site Selection and Prep

- Grows best on well drained, non-sandy sites with 6-8 hours of sun under 6,000 ft elevation. Soil pH of 6.0 – 7.5 is preferred.
- Prepare a firm, clean seedbed and roll or pack the soil so footprints sink no more than ½ inch deep when done (Fig.1).
- Use tillage only if necessary; a successful renovation can be achieved with aggressive vertical mowing (power raking).
- Use a turf 'starter' fertilizer at manufacturer's recommended rate.
- If pre-emergent herbicides have been used on the site, check the product label for restrictions on newly-planted seed.



Figure 1 – Firm Seedbed

Planting the Seed

- Best results obtained by placing seed (Fig.2) in good contact with the soil at 0.25 to 0.50 inches deep. Plant no more than ½ inch deep and do not leave uncovered on soil surface (except for that small amount that always seems to end up on top).
- Rake, drill or cover seed with best method available then roll or pack to insure excellent contact with soil.
- Steps to renovation without tillage include 1) sequential applications of glyphosate herbicide, 2) vertical mow or power rake in 2-3 directions to remove dead vegetation, 3) bag or rake to remove debris, 4) broadcast buffalograss seed, 5) vertical mow or power rake again, and finally 6) roll or pack.
- Buffalograss can be planted in the winter (dormant seeding) through mid summer. Best results when planting in May and June North of I-70 or March and April South of I-70. Soil temperature must be 50° F and increasing for germination.
- Best success on non-irrigated sites when seed is placed near 1/2" deep, early in the season.
- Seeding Rate: 2-3 lbs/1,000 sq ft on residential or golf courses, 1-2 lbs/1,000 sq ft on industrial sites, and 3-4 lbs /1,000 sq ft for soil stabilization. Look for 0.5 -1.5 seeds per square inch.
- If irrigating at establishment, water every day the 1st week, every other day the 2nd week, and every 3rd day the 3rd week after soil temperature reaches approximately 50° F. Water to wet the top 0.5 inches and do not water to the point of runoff.



Figure 2 - Buffalograss Seed

Watering/Fertilizing/Mowing

- Water deeply and infrequently if necessary. Under normal conditions, an inch of water per month will sustain buffalograss whether from rainfall or irrigation.
- Apply 1-3 lbs of actual N/1,000 sq ft/year to established buffalograss in split applications. 1st application 3 weeks after green-up and another 8 weeks later.

- Mow often at establishment, at a height set to just remove the tips of the new buffalograss leaves. This will encourage lateral spread(Fig.3) and reduce weed competition.
- Optimum mowing height of mature buffalograss is 3.5 to 4.0 inches (Fig.4), but it can adapt to heights from 1.5” to unmowed depending on desired appearance.
- Lower mowing heights require more frequent mowing and increases fertilizer and water needs.



Figure 3 - Stolons



Figure 4 – 3.5” Mowing Height

Weed Management

- Mowing frequently just above the height of the buffalograss the first 4 to 5 weeks will minimize weed competition and encourages lateral spread of buffalograss stolons.
- Avoid frequent watering, over fertilizing, and scalping.
- When used in accordance with the manufacturer’s label, herbicides are safe and can be very effective. If you are inexperienced in the use of herbicides, have a licensed applicator apply them for you.
 - Postemergence herbicides for use at establishment are Drive XLR8 (quinclorac), SquareOne (Fig.5) (carfentrazone+quinclorac), and Solitare (sulfentrazone+quinclorac). These herbicides have shown good flexibility and safety for seedling buffalograss. Apply when buffalograss is at the 2-3 leaf stage or older.
 - Preemergence herbicides for use on established buffalograss include Pendulum 3.3EC (pendimethalin), Dimension (dithiopyr), and Barricade 65WG (proflumicafene).
 - Postemergence herbicides for use on established buffalograss include Drive XLR8 (quinclorac), SquareOne (Fig.5)(carfentrazone+quinclorac), Solitare (sulfentrazone+quinclorac) and One-Time (quinclorac+mecoprop+dicamba).
- Most products containing 2,4-D are currently not recommended due to potential injury to buffalograss and relative availability of safer options.
- ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER’S LABEL PRIOR TO USE OF ANY HERBICIDE.



Figure 5 –Solitare Treated



Figure 6 - Untreated Control



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