

## TOP REASONS TO LOVE NATURAL TURFGRASS

*The cosmetic appeal of a **natural turfgrass** lawn immediately attracts attention and is seen as a strong part of our Australian Heritage. Issues such as improved health, safe sports fields, tourist attraction and increase in residential values have all promoted **natural turfgrass** to the building owner. During the Australian drought, **natural turfgrass** was promoted incorrectly as a water guzzler. Unfortunately this was totally incorrect and provided the consumer's selection of the correct variety, installation and maintenance of your lawn is undertaken, a **natural turfgrass** lawn can provide water savings and assist in water runoff and protect our environment. [www.qtpa.com.au](http://www.qtpa.com.au)*

*On the other hand artificial turf consumes non renewable petroleum resources in manufacture has a limited lifespan and eventually requires disposal and replacement as a synthetic. Artificial turf also requires watering and needs to be sprayed with chemicals to reduce weed growth, bacterial and viral infections. Artificial turf grass surfaces have been found to contain elevated levels of particular bacteria such as Staphylococcus. The removal of animal waste and chewing gum for example are difficult to remove from artificial turf. Damaged artificial turf requires patching similar to interior carpet and it is difficult to match. Much higher temperatures have been proven in artificial turf.*

### “NATURAL” TURFGRASS TOP REASONS.

1. Natural turfgrass looks good, feels good and is authentic. It is comfortable to sit and play on. It reinforces an appreciation of our heritage and what makes the house a home in Australia. It has inherent aesthetic appeal.
2. Well maintained natural turfgrass is cooler than most other outdoor surfaces. In summer for example, artificial turf can become very hot (70°C), whereas adjacent natural turfgrass is much cooler. In most Australian climates, this creates a more usable outdoor space for people and pets. It has the added benefit of reducing the heat load on surrounding buildings.
3. Health benefits
4. Sport and recreation benefits.
5. Tourism attraction.
6. The carbon footprint of natural turfgrass is low. Natural turfgrass is normally produced by local farmers and after installation removes carbon dioxide from the air. By comparison artificial turf consumes non



# FACT SHEET

**NO: 03**

**Date: January 2014**

**Turf  
Queensland**  
Grow Green

renewable petroleum resources when it is manufactured and has a limited life span, eventually requiring disposal and replacement.

7. Natural turfgrass can help soak up water after heavy rainfall, reducing run-off problems. Should runoff occur, turfgrass assists in trapping suspended material, improving the water quality in our waterways.
8. With slight changes in management, natural turfgrass lawns are self repairing after wear or physical damage.
9. Natural turfgrass lawns tend to have a diverse range of microbes, competing with and suppressing each other.
10. Natural turfgrass lawn dampens sound in the surrounding area. Hard surfaces in contrast bounce the sound in an urban environment.
11. A natural turfgrass lawn does not need cleaning, vacuuming or sweeping.
12. Natural turfgrass in a domestic lawn is normally free of synthetic materials, such as recycled rubber tyres.
13. The real estate Institute of Australia has estimated that a residential house will increase its value by up to \$40,000 with the use of a correctly maintained natural turfgrass lawn.

## THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL TURFGRASS

- ☉ Increased residential value.
- ☉ Protection for children and pets in playing areas.
- ☉ With correct installation reduces water usage.
- ☉ Proven health benefits.
- ☉ Safe sports playing fields and open spaces.
- ☉ Increased tourist attraction.
- ☉ Reduces water runoff into our waterways.
- ☉ Reduces heat in the urban environment.
- ☉ Bacteria removed through natural washing and drainage.



Industry Fact Sheet is published by Turf Queensland as part of the Industry Development Services for the Queensland Turf Industry project. This project has been funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the turf industry levy, co-investment from Turf Queensland and funds from the Australian Government

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA Ltd) makes no representations and expressly disclaims all warranties (to the extent permitted by law) about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of information in Industry Development Services for the Queensland Turf Industry.

**Horticulture  
Innovation  
Australia**

DISCLAIMER No responsibility or consequential damages arising from the use of information contained within this fact sheet will be accepted by Turf Queensland. The information is provided in good faith and for the information of members.