

MAINTENANCE AND “WARM SEASON” LAWN CARE PROGRAM

Developing a low maintenance lawn with quality natural turfgrass is simple and the following has been distilled from the many different publicised information documents and fact sheets on this subject to assist the consumer in conjunction with our Turf Queensland turf producer members in understanding how simple it is to maintain a quality natural turfgrass lawn. It is important to develop a maintenance regime that works for you in your environment. Always remember there are four basic areas that are important for continuous enjoyment and presentation of quality turfgrass: **soil quality, availability of sunlight, availability of water and regular mowing.**

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1. **Soil Tests:** It is always best to start with a soil test or at least understand the soils strengths and weaknesses. This can easily be done yourself (Google) or sent to a specialist. Your local Turf Queensland member can assist.



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2. **Lawn Establishment:** When establishing a new lawn always consider low maintenance options and strategies for site preparation, turf species and varieties to suit your geographical region and climate. Your Turf Queensland member can assist here.



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3. **General Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance will include modifications to poor soils and probably seasonally repeated core aeration and a light top dressing.



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4. **Water Use:** Always practice water wise irrigation processes. Water as early in the morning as possible due to calmer wind conditions. Water only when the lawn is dry and then applying an amount that will soak in deeply. Your grass will tell you when it needs watering by walking on it. If the turf is brown and dry, or it is crackly and hard to walk on it needs water. A good deep watering is better than a lot of light watering.



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5. **Mowing:** When mowing always follow the one third rule, removing just the top third of the turf blade. Leaving clippings on the lawn is not a bad thing if this can be done as it provides nutrients and mulches.
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FACT SHEET

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6. **Fertilising:** In warm season turf grasses fertilise lightly through the peak growing season such as spring and summer. It is generally a good idea to also fertilise at the end of autumn to assist your lawn through the cooler climate.



7. **Pesticides:** Apply pesticides only to those areas that require them. Quality natural turfgrass will usually crowd out weeds and be able to outgrow many insect and disease problems. Large weeds can be pulled out or spots sprayed.



8. **Drought Proofing:** in warm season climates drought and heat stress can affect the lawn. If these unfavourable conditions apply allow the lawn to go dormant. When the rain fall increases and the high heat conditions apply, a major benefit your natural turfgrass is that it will recover with little assistance.



9. **General:** if your quality natural turfgrass lawn has had the correct low maintenance processes applied, many of the arduous tasks of weeding, spraying insecticides, and herbicides will not be necessary and allow you to enjoy the presentation of your home lawn as you have designed. There is nothing better than a well maintained freshly cut lawn for all to enjoy.



For further information, and expert advice on the various natural turfgrass species available to suit your geographic region and climate please contact your Turf Queensland member turf producer (www.qtpa.com.au) who can discuss the options with you and recommend the appropriate turfgrass species and processes for your lawn. If further assistance is required please contact:

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