

## SELECTION OF NATURAL TURFGRASS

Quality natural turfgrass is an integral part of enhancing the overall aesthetic appearance of the landscaping around your home. A good-quality lawn will enhance and add value to your residential property and provide a healthy playing surface for your family. A healthy quality lawn will reduce run-off and increase water infiltration into the soil. It will also greatly improve the cooling qualities of the environment around the house. On the other hand, a badly maintained lawn will severely detract from the presentation and cosmetic appearance of your home and could reduce its value significantly. This fact sheet provides a general guide to turfgrass selection. Further in depth information is available from your turf provider. Your Turf Queensland member company can advise on suitable products and species to suit your project and underpin its success.

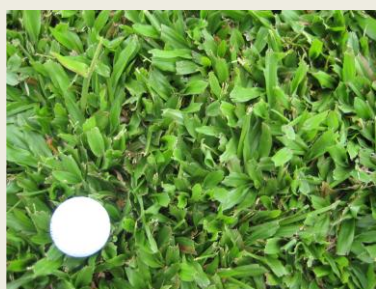
Only warm season grasses (those adapted to subtropical and tropical conditions) are suitable for year-round growth in Queensland lawns. Some popular Queensland turf species are (there are many more):



Green Couch



Blue Couch



Carpet Grass



Soft Leaf Buffalo

*There are many types of species available in Queensland with many cultivars having subtle differences within those species. There are numerous well adapted grasses to choose from. Turf Queensland members can advise you on the appropriate grasses, or you can contact Turf Queensland Inc directly on [info@qtpa.com.au](mailto:info@qtpa.com.au)*

# FACT SHEET

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A lawn is a permanent feature so you will need a grass that suits your area and your intended level of management. There are many grasses used in Queensland and they vary widely in different climatic conditions. There is no one grass that fits all situations. The most important decision to make when establishing a new lawn is to select a suitable natural turfgrass for your situation and needs. Many lawn problems occur because homeowners do not choose the best turfgrass from the start.

It is important to have an idea of the quality lawn you require. The following questions should be considered and your Turf Queensland member supplier can help you here.

- a) **What kind of lawn do you want?** It is important that you have an idea of the type of yard you want. Do you want a high quality lawn that is highly manicured and carefully tended or are you looking for an average lawn with lower inputs of fertiliser and maintenance?
- b) **What commercially available turfgrass species are suitable to your area?** Due to differences in climatic, micro-climatic and soil conditions, certain grasses will grow better in some locations than in others. Only warm season grasses (those adapted to subtropical and tropical conditions) are suitable for year-round growth in Queensland lawns. There are turfgrasses that suit a wide range of climatic conditions. For example some grasses tend to struggle in the wet tropics of far North Queensland mainly due to heavy cloud cover during the wet season. More tropical species are suited there.
- c) **What effect will your soil have on different grasses?** Your soil quality has a great effect on the grass species selected. Natural soil types vary from sand through to heavy clay and therefore drainage varies from good to poor. Most Queensland soils are basically low in fertility, especially sand and some loam that hold lower amounts of nutrient in the profile than the heavier soils with more clay. It is always beneficial to have your soil tested and your Turf Queensland member supplier can assist you here.
- d) Do you find the **visual appearance of the grass appealing?** Texture, density and colour characteristics that contribute to the visual appearance of a lawn. The choice here is a matter of personal preference but there will also be times when other factors such as soil, shade, wear and salinity mean that compromise may be necessary. Your Turf Queensland member supplier will be able to show you the different grass species grown on their farm to allow you to understand the variations.

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