

ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS

ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS IS STILL THE MOST COMMON LAWN GRASS USED IN FLORIDA TODAY. IT IS A COARSE GRASS THAT GROWS WELL IN MOST FLORIDA SOILS. IT CAN BE KEPT GREEN DURING FLORIDA'S NORMAL WINTERS, AND CERTAIN VARIETIES IN SHADE. MAINTAIN WITH WATER AND FERTILIZING TO KEEP A BEAUTIFUL LAWN.

VARIETIES KNOWN: BITTER BLUE, RALEIGH, FLORATINE, FLORATAM, DELMAR, JADE, PURSLEY SEVILLE, FX -10, FX-33, SUNCLIPSE, MERCEDES, ROSELAWN, PALMETTO, GULF STAR AND MORE - JUST TO NAME A FEW.

SHADE VARIETIES: BITTER BLUE OR PURSLEY SEVILLE.

TO GROW GRASS IN SHADY AREAS YOU MUST FERTILIZE 5-6 MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR. IT RELYS ON FERTILIZER TO GROW AND NOT SUN BECAUSE IT IS NOT AVAILABLE. ALSO MAKE TWO APPLICATION OF DOLOMITE LIMESTONE.

SOIL pH: ST. AUGUSTINE NEED A pH OF 6.0 -7.0. IF pH IS TOO LOW - NITROGEN, PHOSPHATE, CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM DEFICENCY WILL SHOW IN YOUR LAWN IF BELOW 5.5.

IF pH IS TOO HIGH MANGANESE, BORON AND IRON DEFICIENCY WILL APPEAR IN YOUR LAWN IF ABOVE 7.5.

MOWING: ST. AUGUSTINE MOW AT 3 INCHES. MOWING AT A LOW HEIGHT WILL ENCOURAGE SHALLOW ROOTING OF THE GRASS WHICH MAKES IT LESS DROUGHT TOLERANT. MOWING WITH A DULL BLADES WILL SHRED LEAF BLADES, THEN IT WILL CAUSE FUNGUS. MORE ST. AUGUSTINE IS KILLED BY A DULL LAWN MOWER BLADE THAT WAS SET TOO LOW THAN TO BE KILLED BY CHINCH BUGS. WHEN CUTTING KEEP AT THE SAME PACE IN WALKING, DO NOT RUN THE MOWER TOO SLOWLY. WHEN YOU MOW TO LOW WILL BUILD UP WITH THATCH PROBLEMS AND FUNGUS CAN OCCUR. ADD WHITE BUILDERS SAND (NOT TOPSOIL) OR PEAT MOSS TO REDUCE THATCH ½" AT A TIME WILL THICKEN YOUR ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS.

WATERING: THE BEST WAY TO IRRIGATE AN ESTABLISHED LAWN IS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS. GRASS BLADES WILL BEGIN TO WILT, FOLD UP. WHEN THIS OCCURS IRRIGATE WITH ¾ TO 1 INCH OF WATER. THE TURF WILL FULLY RECOVER IN 24 HOURS. IF SIGNS OF WILTING AND DYING OUT ARE STILL PRESENT THEN CHINCH BUGS COULD BE A PROBLEM. TOO MUCH WATERING CAN ENCOURAGE DISEASES - WATER WHEN THE GRASS NEEDS WATERING.

REPLANTING: IS AVAILABLE IN PLUGS OR SOD ONLY. SEED DOES NOT GERMINATE VERY WELL. ST. AUGUSTINE WILL NOT GROW IN SOIL THAT IS COMPACTED. USE GYPSUM 2 TIMES A YEAR FOR HARD COMPACT SOILS.

FERTILIZING: SHOULD BE DONE 2-3 TIMES A YEAR - 1/3 HEAVIER FOR FALL AND 1/3 LIGHTER IN SPRING AND SUMMER. USE A GOOD QUALITY FERTILIZER WITH MINOR ELEMENTS OR THE MAJOR ELEMENTS SUCH AS - NITROGEN, PHOSPHATE AND POTASH - WON'T WORK AS GOOD IN OUR SANDY SOIL. BE SURE TO GET A FERTILIZER WITH A SLOW RELEASE OR COULD BURN YOUR LAWN WITH A HIGH NITROGEN QUICK RELEASE. IF YOUR LAWN IS YELLOW USE HI IRON PLUS FOR A RICH GREEN COLOR. HI IRON PLUS IS 16% IRON AND MINOR ELEMENTS TO HELP THE GRASS TO GREENUP FAST.

WEED & FEED: USE A WEED AND FEED THAT IS REQUIRED FOR ST. AUGUSTINE ONLY BECAUSE ST. AUGUSTINE IS SENSITIVE TO CERTAIN CHEMICALS AND APPLY AT CORRECT TIME OF THE YEAR AND CORRECT AMOUNT FOR THE QUANTITY OF SQUARE FEET. ALWAYS FOLLOW RECOMMENDED LABEL DIRECTIONS. UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IF USED INCORRECTLY MAY CAUSE INJURY AND SEVERE DAMAGE MAY OCCUR ON ST. AUGUSTINE.

INSECTS: THE MAJOR PEST IS CHINCH BUGS, OTHER PESTS INCLUDE SOD WEB WORMS, ARMYWORMS, GRASS LOOPERS AND MOLE CRICKETS CAN DAMAGE YOUR ST. AUGUSTINE LAWNS. HIGH LEVELS OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER ENCOURAGE INSECT PROBLEMS. (SEE FERTILIZING)

DISEASES / FUNGUS: BROWN PATCH AND GRAY LEAF SPOT ARE THE TWO MAJOR DISEASE PROBLEMS IN ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS. BROWN PATCH OCCURS IN WARM, HUMID WEATHER AND IS ENCOURAGED BY EXCESSIVE NITROGEN. SEEN MOSTLY DURING FALL AND SPRING. GRAY LEAF SPOT OCCURS DURING THE SUMMER RAINY SEASON AND IS PRIMARILY A PROBLEM ON NEW GROWTH. BOTH DISEASES CAN BE CONTROLLED WITH FUNGICIDES. NEW FUNGUS T.A.R.R. TAKE ALL ROOT ROT USE A ½" LAYER OF PEAT MOSS TO CONTROL THIS FUNGUS.

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Always follow label Directions - Don't over apply!!!

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
FERTILIZER - 100% ORGANIC 6-6-6, TURF BUILDER 16-2-8, TURF TONE 18-0-3 ESPOMA ORGANIC LAWN FOOD 18-8-6 or MİLOGANITE 6-2-0 (summer only) If yellow use Hi Iron Plus. Apply fertilizer during spring, summer & fall.			X	XX			X	XX		X	XX	
FERTILIZER FOR SHADED AREAS - Apply fertilizer every other month alternating the fertilizer 5-6 times a year.		X		X		X		X		X		X
WEED CONTROL - Make two applications a year - during Fall, Winter & Spring Spray ATRAZINE below 90 degrees or Use Fertilizer with ATRAZINE		X	XX	XXX						X	XX	XXX
SUMMER WEED CONTROL - Sedge Hammer Plus for broad leaf weeds make two applications & three applications for Sedge Control - S			S			X	XX	X	XX		S	
YEAR ROUND WEED CONTROL - use CRABGRASS KILLER by Agralawn for crabgrass or broad leaf weeds. Apply with Morning Dew. (Baking Soda will work too)												
CRABGRASS PREVENTER - apply four times a year for continuing results. Use Granular Crabgrass Control or Fortify (Balan/Treflan) or Liquid Surflan.	X	XX	XXX	X	XX	XXX	X	XX	XXX	X	XX	XXX
DOLOMITE (LIMESTONE) - apply twice a year to raise pH. Once during springtime and once during summertime. Helps suppress weed growth.			X	XX			X	XX				
DE-THATCH - Use Lawn & Garden Soil Activator (Humate) to prevent thatch build-up in lawn & to prevent fungus. Apply twice a year. Works only in warm temperatures. Apply dolomite limestone prior to using - works faster.				X	XX			X	XX			
GYPSSUM - Use gypsum for hard compact, damp, wet or reclaimed phosphate areas to improve drainage and to prevent fungus from occurring in lawn. Apply yearly.						X	X	X				
FUNGUS -Spray as needed if present use Propiconazole, Myclobutanil Fungicide, Bacillus amyloliquifaciens-strain fungus appears usually during our rainy months. Spray every 15 - 30 days						X	X	X				
CHINCH BUGS - alternate insecticide for best results. Available in Liquid or Granular. Bifenthrin (Telstar), Deltamethrin, Orthene, B-Cyfluthrin & Imidacloprid, Permethrin or Sevin (Carbaryl), Aloth(Clothianidin). Apply 3-4 times during hot or dry months. If present apply again in two weeks.				X		X	X	X	X			
SOD WEB WORM - Apply insecticides twice during wet months. June - Sept. see insecticides listed above will work also for sod web worms.						X	X	X				
FIRE ANTS - Apply year round. Use Payback or Orthene Insecticides. Treat mounds when you see them.												
ANTS - see insecticides listed above will work also for ants. Treat Lawn area												

SCHEDULE 1 - X

SCHEDULE 2 - XX

SCHEDULE 3 - XXX

SEGE -S

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE for ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS