

SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

^{La} PRIMA™ BERMUDAGRASS BLEND

Plant Certified ^{La} PRIMA today and receive all the benefits of multiple varieties in one package!

^{La} PRIMA Bermudagrass Blend is the best choice for your high profile project where fast germination, rapid establishment and excellent turf performance are required. It is the first Certified blend of improved, turf-type seeded bermudagrass varieties. The high performance varieties in ^{La} PRIMA were chosen for their individual benefits and characteristics: to provide an extremely high quality turfgrass surface in a shorter time, at less expense to the consumer and with easier maintenance requirements. ^{La} PRIMA will outperform single seeded varieties in most situations. You can always count on ^{La} PRIMA Turf-Type Bermudagrass Blend to consist of the best bermuda varieties available.

WORLD RENOWNED

Bermudagrass or Couchgrass (*cynodon sp.*) is the primary turfgrass for much of the temperate and tropical world. Originating in Africa and India, this grass has the ability to withstand extremes in climatic and growing conditions around the world. "Common" bermudagrass seed has been used for many years as a preferred turf surface for uses as diverse as professional sports fields, parks and home lawns. In recent years, plant breeders have devoted considerable efforts to improving the overall turf quality and performance of the seeded bermudagrass species, *cynodon dactylon*, in order to provide turfgrass managers with an economic alternative to the high cost of installing and maintaining hybrid bermudagrass sod.

USES AND APPLICATIONS

This scientifically formulated blend of the top performing seeded turf-type bermudagrass varieties, delivers excellent results throughout the temperate, subtropical and tropical regions of the world. Recent research has also shown ^{La} PRIMA to be an excellent resource for the transition zone turfgrass manager. ^{La} PRIMA is especially designed for new plantings and use on golf course fairways, roughs and tees, municipal parks, commercial landscapes and all types of sports fields. This top quality turf-type bermudagrass product is easily planted from seed, allowing for much faster and far less expensive turf-grass establishment, when compared to the popular vegetative bermuda varieties. Certified ^{La} PRIMA may be overseeded into stands of common or other seeded bermuda varieties to improve density, turf quality and overall turfgrass performance. When a healthier, easier to maintain turf is desired, ^{La} PRIMA may be overseeded into existing stands of medium textured hybrid or vegetative bermudas.

BENEFITS OF ANNUAL SPRING / SUMMER BERMUDA OVERSEEDING

Increased Bermuda Population – new seedlings will establish and contribute to a higher quality mature turf appearance. Improved Summer Transition – correct interseeding practices will reduce ryegrass competition and increase soil temperature for faster bermuda recovery. Reduced Weed Infestations – more completely covered soil surface will reduce weed seed germination and establishment in summer months. Improved Stress Tolerance – seeded turf-type bermudas are generally more salt, heat, drought, disease and insect tolerant than popular vegetative varieties.

TURF QUALITY

- Genetically stable turf
- Very uniform growth
- Medium to fine texture
- Increased salt tolerance
- Fast germination & establishment
- Increased turf density

- Dark green color
- Consistently high quality turf
- Durable, wear tolerant turf
- Tolerates poor quality & effluent water
- Higher fertilizer efficiency
- Withstands variable soil conditions

- Certified seed
- Easy to maintain
- Rotary or reel mowers
- Disease and pest resistant
- Diverse genetic origins
- Drought tolerant

For information and pricing, contact:

Produced by
SEED RESEARCH™
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PVP
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The Establishment and Maintenance of Bermudagrass from Seed

SEED: Bermudagrass seed is available in several forms – hulled, unhulled and coated. Unhulled seed is the natural seed form, which will germinate in 7-14 days. Hulled seed has had the outer skin (hull) removed for faster germination, 4-7 days to germinate. Coated seed has been pelleted with clay containing nutrients to improve ease of planting and establishment, germination in 5-10 days. In all three forms, minimum germination of quality seed is 80 per cent, with seed counts ranging from 1-2 million seeds per pound.

SOIL PREPARATION: Remove old turf and weeds. Do not plow these under as they take too long to decompose. If soil is light and sandy, add sterilized manure or a composted mulch material to the top few inches of soil. If soil is heavy or clay, add gypsum or lime (ask your local nursery for advice and application rates for your area) to the soil and mix in well with some mulch and sand. Cultivate your soil to a depth of six inches, incorporating lime, any organic soil amendments and preplant fertilizers as needed or based on soil tests. Prepare a medium-fine, firm seedbed – using a light roller on the finished seedbed is beneficial to level and firm the area.

SEEDING AND IRRIGATION: Bermudagrass seed should be planted in late spring or early summer when night time temperatures are consistently above 65 degrees F (18 degrees C). Plant 2-3 pounds of hulled seed, or 3-5 pounds of unhulled seed, or 3 pounds of coated seed per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Sow half of the seed in one direction, and the other half at right angles to the first half. Rake the seed in lightly, covering no more than 1/8 inch with pulverized manure, peat moss or another fine soil material and then firm the seedbed. Apply water evenly and with a fine spray in order not to disturb the newly planted seed. Keep the soil continually moist for 10-14 days or until the new lawn is well sprouted and has had a chance to get established. After the seedlings are well established, start reducing the frequency of watering, while increasing the amount of water applied to encourage deep root growth. Once fully established, properly maintained bermudagrass turf will use far less water than many other turfgrass species.

FERTILIZATION: Only fertilize the young lawn if the early growth is weak or yellow. Approximately four weeks after seeding, apply a complete, balanced fertilizer to the newly established turf area. For faster coverage during the establishment year, a rate of 1 1/2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet is recommended every month during the growing season. Bermudagrass responds well to regular applications of nitrogen. Consult your fertilizer dealer for specific recommendations.

MOWING MAINTENANCE: No special mower is needed for this premium Bermudagrass product. Results are best when blades are kept sharp. Recommended mowing height is 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches. Don't mow the new lawn until it is at least two inches high and make sure that the mower is especially sharp for this first cutting to reduce damage to the young grass. The first two or three cuttings should not be shorter than 1-1/2 inches. Subsequent cuttings should be about 3/4 of an inch to promote the best growth possible, although bermuda can be kept at a 2-inch height with satisfactory results. Grass clippings can generally be left on the grass, as long as they are not excessive — they will decompose and add nutrients to the root zone.

PEST AND WEED CONTROL: Several weed control products are labeled for bermudagrass turf during establishment, as well as for later maintenance. Occasionally bermudagrass turf can suffer minor damage from turf diseases and insect pests. Overall, well maintained seeded bermuda turf is resistant or tolerant to most turf insects and diseases. This environmentally friendly turf species requires few chemicals for good growth. Consult your local extension office or turf chemical dealer for appropriate control recommendations in your area.

WINTER OVERSEEDING: In temperate and transition growing regions, both seeded and vegetative bermudagrass turf goes dormant during winter, turning brown until warm temperatures return the following spring. Winter overseeding with cool climate turf species is generally not recommended on a newly established bermudagrass turf. If you must overseed your new stands of bermuda, then plant the ryegrass at half the normal seeding rate. Too heavy of a seed rate application or too invasive of preparation method can severely damage any bermuda stand, especially a newly established stand. On mature healthy bermudagrass, a fall overseeding application of perennial ryegrass seed such as Champion or Magnum can produce good results. Due to the density of bermuda turf, the ryegrass seeds must be raked in well for good soil contact.

ANNUAL SPRING / SUMMER BERMUDA OVERSEED: To improve your bermudagrass stand and for better transition results each year, an annual light seeding with a Certified Turf Type Bermudagrass is recommended in late spring/early summer. Please ask for the SRO detailed sheet on this procedure.