

Sod Maintenance Tips

- **SHADE TOLERANCE:**

Has high light requirement-requires full sunlight most of day. Should not be used in shady areas.

- **HEAT/COLD TOLERANCE:**

Has excellent heat tolerance. Not as cold tolerant as other turf type bermudas. See shaded portion of map below for suggested areas of use.

- **DORMANCY:**

Enters dormant stage in winter months. Stops growing when temperatures drop below 50F for sustained period, turns tan winter color. Requires 65F ground temperature for significant growth. Slightly slower green-up in spring than other turf type bermudas.

- **WATER REQUIREMENTS:**

Will tolerate sustained periods of drought if well established. However, responds well to irrigation during dry conditions if higher quality turfgrass desired. Should be kept moist during sustained periods of extreme cold.

- **WEAR RESISTANCE-RECOVERY:**

Very good wear resistance and will withstand heavy traffic. Very good injury recovery-spreads rapidly by rhizomes in warm season.

- **RULES OF THUMB MAINTENANCE:**

- The amount and frequency of watering, mowing and fertilizing depends upon the desired appearance of your turfgrass. Guidelines for maintenance procedures are offered below as good rules of thumb to follow on an as needed basis in maintaining healthy turfgrass with an attractive appearance.

- **WATERING:**

Apply 1/2 to 1 inch water in a single application about once per week during hot and dry conditions. To promote a deep, durable root system, deep soaking water applications are preferred over short and frequent shallow watering applications. Caution against dry winter freeze.

- **MOWING:**

For a high quality appearance keep mowed height 1 1/4 to 3/4 inch. Mow regularly with a reel or rotary mower allowing clippings to remain. Irregular mowing practices may result in high buildups of thatch, which will require verticutting, mulching and or removal. Suggested not removing more than 1/3 of the leaf growth during a single mowing.

- **FERTILIZING:**

Apply 1/2 to 1 lbs per 1000 SF of a full analysis fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphate and potassium; such as 28-13-13 in mid-April and 9-24-24 in midSeptember. To maintain a deep green color, nitrogen may be applied monthly at a rate of 1 lbs per 1000 SF May thru August. Suggest obtaining a soil test for specific fertilizer requirements.

- **WEED CONTROL:**

Weed growth competes with turfgrass growth. Good maintenance practices help eliminate weed problems. However, it may be necessary even under the best of care, to apply herbicides to maintain weed free turfgrass. Contact your local County Extension agent or herbicide dealer for recommendations for your type turfgrass.

- **Other Characteristics**

- Salinity Resistance — Good

Tifway 419 has a good tolerance to saline soils and water conditions found in both coastal and desert areas.

- Drought Resistance — Good

Will tolerate sustained periods of drought if well established; however responds well to irrigation during dry conditions if higher quality turfgrass is desired.

- Cold Tolerance — Good

Tifway 419 stops growing when temperatures drop below 50°F for a sustained period. This Bermuda variety should be kept moist during sustained periods of extreme cold. 65°F ground temperature is needed for significant growth.

- Wear / Traffic Tolerance — Excellent

Tifway 419 exhibits very good wear resistance and will withstand heavy traffic. It has very good injury recovery and spreads rapidly by rhizomes in the warmer seasons.

- Shade Tolerance — Poor

Requires full sun most of the day, and should not be used in shady areas.

- Mowing Height Tolerance — Good

Sod Maintenance Tips

Mow regularly with a reel mower at least weekly during the growing season. Clippings are best removed. Irregular mowing may result in high build-ups of thatch.



Watering Schedule

Suggested three-week watering schedule to establish turf.

Week 1:	One-half inch per day (preferably a quarter inch in the morning and a quarter inch in the evening)
Week 2:	One-half inch per day (preferably all at one time to begin developing a deeper root system)
Week 3:	One-half inch every two-to-three days (exact need depends on site conditions, grass type, and installation)

Other Tips on a Healthy Start to Your Lawn

- Plant turf only in healthy soil with plenty of organic compost. The deeper the soil the better.
- Ensure full contact of the sod back to the topsoil by using a roller or other method. Air pockets between the sod and topsoil will generally cause grass to die regardless of how much you water.
- Choose the right grass for the job:
 - **Bermuda** – Full sun, heavy traffic
 - **Buffalo** – Full sun, no traffic, Texas country look or wildflower patch
 - **Zoysia** – Shade, dappled sun, moderate traffic

Remember:

- The goal is to develop deep roots for maximum drought tolerance.
- Grass areas should only be as big as you need for kids, pets, and entertaining. Turf should *not* be used as the default ground cover.
- Drought-tolerant grass is able to survive dry spells by going dormant (turning brown). It's not dead; just sleeping until the next rain.
- Keeping drought-tolerant grass green can take as much water as non-drought tolerant varieties. Show your community spirit and let your lawn "sleep" in the summer.
- Even established St. Augustine grass can survive on one-half inch of water every two weeks in the hottest part of summer. Even less water is required in the shade and during cooler times of the year.

Information provided by O.S.U. County Extension Office.