Zoysia Turf Calendar by Erin Harlow

Zoysia Turfgrass

- Zoysia is becoming a more popular grass for North Florida lawns. It has good tolerance to salt, shade, and wear and creates a carpet that reminds people of northern lawns.
- Popular cultivars include: Empire, JaMur, Emerald, and UltimateFlora
- Shade: Zoysia does the best in a minimum of 5 hours of sunlight. Empire is not as shade tolerant as other cultivars.
- Soil pH: Zoysia prefers a soil pH around 5.5 to 6.5.
- It should be mowed no higher than 2.5”, but it is cultivar dependent.
- Zoysia may need supplemental irrigation during drought stress to remain green.

Resources:

- Turfgrass Disease Management - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040
- Weed Management in Home Lawns - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141
- Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscape - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110
- Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011
- Hunting Billbug - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in364

Zoysia Turf Program

- The program recommended in this fact sheet is based on granular applications and recommended for turf that has a low - moderate maintenance need by homeowners.
- This program should not be compared to a commercial lawn service as programs can vary depending on application method, rate, equipment, and goals.
- The major goal for the program should include healthy shoot and root development. This is achieved through a proper irrigation and fertilizer program.
**FERTILIZER**

Fertilize with a complete fertilizer (NPK) after the chance of last frost, preferably with micronutrients and slow release potassium. A 2:1 or 1:1 ratio of nitrogen to potassium is recommended. Use no more than 4 lbs of nitrogen a year per 1,000 sq ft and no more than 1 lb of nitrogen per application. Use 0.5 lb N/1,000 sq ft if it is a quick release product.

Apply slow release nitrogen.

Apply iron with or without a micronutrient mix herbicides

**HERBICIDES**

Apply pre-emergence herbicide when soil temps reach 65°F (usually around March 1st or when air temp reaches the 70s for several days). Time the second application 60 days or according to label after 1st application.

Apply post-emergence herbicide treatments as needed when temperatures are in appropriate range - read the label. Usually below 90°F and above 40°F. Spot treat only during summer and winter when grass is stressed.

**INSECTS**

Hunting Billbugs (present year-round, but most common in fall and winter - treat if necessary)

Fall armyworms active (treat if necessary)

Tropical sod webworms active (treat if necessary)

**DISEASES**

Pythium root rot can be active (treat if necessary)

Large patch most likely to be active (treat if necessary; preventative treatments in Feb and Oct)

**IRRIGATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Adjust and calibrate irrigation system.

Install sod, core aerate, or verticut if necessary.

Service equipment - mowers, edgers, etc.

Complete soil test and adjust fertilizer as needed.