



How to Install Sapphire Buffalo Grass

1. Remove all building waste & weeds.
2. Spread a free draining soil to a depth of 7-15cm (roots can penetrate much deeper) or loosen ground and mix in appropriate soil conditioners. Phone a soil supplier for more advice on this option. For sandy soils, simply mix in organic material and rotary hoe.
3. Level the surface using a screeding board, lawn leveller or similar device.
4. Apply a low analysis fertilizer with an N:P:K of approximately 5:6:5 or lawn starter fertilizer to the surface and incorporate with a rake.
5. In hot months, moisten the soil but do not make the soil too wet. Do not lay the buffalo grass on hot, dry soil.
6. Lay the buffalo grass as soon as possible after delivery.
7. On hot days, lay a section of the buffalo grass and lightly water. Repeat until all turf is laid. On cool days, the buffalo grass can be laid all at once. Roll and water thoroughly within one hour of laying turf.
8. Water thoroughly for 7-10 days or until the buffalo lawn is established take care that the water is saturating the soil beneath the turf. In colder months, the buffalo lawn will take longer to establish. The turf should not dry out until roots are established.
9. When the soil has firmed and the Sapphire Buffalo Grass has rooted down, usually 2-3 weeks after laying (longer during winter), mow lightly to tidy up your new buffalo lawn.



Watering Tips

Watering your New Sapphire Buffalo Lawn

Newly installed buffalo grass has very important watering needs. Proper watering immediately after installation will ensure the buffalo lawn becomes established, and it will also have an impact on how well the buffalo lawn continues to flourish for years to come. Begin watering new buffalo grass within a half hour after it is laid on the soil. Apply at least 2 to 3 cm. (1 inch) of water so that the soil beneath the buffalo lawn is very wet. Ideally the soil 7 to 10 cm (3 to 4 inches) below the surface should be moist.

Below are some watering tips for new buffalo lawns:

1. Pull back a corner of the buffalo grass and push a screwdriver or other sharp tool into the soil. It should push in easily and have moisture along the first 7 to 10 cm. (3 or 4 inches), or you need to apply more water.
2. Make absolutely certain that water is getting to all areas of your new buffalo lawn, regardless of the type of sprinkling system you use. Corners and edges are easily missed by many sprinklers (if windy) and are particularly vulnerable to drying out faster than the centre portion of your buffalo lawn. Also, areas near buildings dry out faster because of reflected heat and may require more water.
3. Runoff may occur on some soils and sloped areas before the soil is adequately moist. To conserve water and ensure adequate soak in, turn off the water when runoff begins, wait 30 minutes to an hour and restart the watering on the same area. Repeating this start and stop process until correct soil moisture is achieved. For the next two weeks keep the below-turf soil surface moist with daily (or more frequent) watering. Especially hot, dry or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts and frequency.
4. As the turf starts to establish its new roots into the soil, it will be difficult, impossible and/or harmful to pull back a corner to check beneath the turf, but you can still use a sharp tool to check moisture depth by pushing it through the buffalo grass and into the soil.
5. Water as early in the morning as possible to take advantage of the daily start of the grass's normal growing cycle, usually lower wind speeds and considerably less water loss because of high temperature evaporation.

6. If the temperature approaches 37°C (100 F), or high winds are constant for more than half of the day, reduce the temperature of the buffalo lawn surface by lightly sprinkling the area. This sprinkling does not replace the need for longer, deeper watering, which will become even more critical during adverse weather conditions.
7. After the Sapphire is established, infrequent and deep watering is preferred to frequent and shallow watering because the buffalo grass roots will only grow as deeply as its most frequently available water supply. Deeply rooted grass has a larger "soil-water bank" to draw moisture from and this will help the grass survive drought and hot weather that rapidly dries out the upper soil layer.



Maintenance Tips

Mowing your Sapphire Buffalo Lawn

1. Mow every 5-10 days in the hot months; mow every 3-6 weeks in the cold months.
2. Mowing height will vary: 2-5cm in sunny/lightly shaded situations, 5-7cm in heavier shaded situations.

Watering your Sapphire Buffalo Grass

1. Water thoroughly and regularly after Sapphire Buffalo Grass has been laid to encourage a deep and vigorous root system (the buffalo grass will be able to fossick for water and therefore be more able to withstand hot dry conditions).
2. Once the root system has fully established, water thoroughly only when needed-when a slight wilting is visible, usually once every 7-10 days in summer (on sandy soils more often), with much less or no water in cooler months.
3. Remember that infrequent, deep watering promotes a healthy lawn.
4. Over watering encourages excessive growth, disease and root rot.
5. It is best to water in the early morning; night watering is not recommended.

Fertilising your Sapphire Buffalo Grass

1. Buffalo grass needs to be fed to remain strong and healthy.
2. Use a complete fertiliser in early April and early September.
3. At other times of the year use a slow release fertiliser. If you need a quick green up, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen to promote a lush green lawn- e.g. Supergreen or organic based slow release fertilisers. In heat of summer avoid over fertilising or using manure based products.

Pests, Weeds and Diseases

Sapphire Buffalo Grass is resistant to pests, weeds and fungi compared to most other turf varieties, but as with any natural product, occasional problems can occur. If these problems occur we recommend the following:

1. Pests - watch for the lawn grub (e.g. web worm or army worm) and african black beetle- apply suitable pesticides according to directions.
2. Weeds - if weeds infest, hand eradicate before seed head develops or apply a suitable weedicide (ask your local garden centre.) **NB: sprays containing DICAMBA must not be applied to soft leaf buffalo grass...!!!!!!**