

TRADEMARK:	Empire®	BOTANICAL NAME:	Zoysia japonica
PBR:	SS500 This variety is protected by Australian Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR)		

KEY FEATURES:



- Empire® Zoysia's nickname is EZ grass and is commonly referred to as the "easy grass".
- Empire® has been proven to significantly strengthen soil by 48%, improving erosion control of roadsides, steep embankments, batters, stream embankment, retaining walls and foreshores compared to Couch (3.2%) and Kikuyu (9.7%)¹.
- Empire® is one of the most popular Zoysia grasses in Australia due to its low maintenance.
- Empire® has improved pest and disease resistance and tolerates low to moderate salinity.
- Empire® has excellent fast initial growth across the ground compared to other Zoysias. Its runners are highly branching, which provides excellent recovery from wear.
- Quickly becoming known as the tough, hardwearing turf, Empire® can survive on natural rainfall and if left to its own devices, saves on long-term mowing, pesticides, de-thatching and fertilisers.
- Can endure long periods of non-attention, but when well maintained Empire® Zoysia looks lush and maintains colour year-round, so is suited to a large range of commercial purposes.
- Empire® meets the Erosion Control Australian Standard No# AS5181: 2017 – *Use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure.*

MORPHOLOGY:

PLANT	Growth:	Stolons and rhizomes	Vigour:	Strong to very strong
STOLON	Stolon length:	Long to very long	Stolon diameter of node:	Medium to broad
	Internode length:	Long (35mm)	Internode thickness:	Broad
	Internode colour:	Greyed-purple (RHS 183B)		
LEAF BLADE	Shape:	Ligulate	Length:	Very long (120-140mm)
	Width:	Medium (2-2.3mm)	Colour:	Green (RHS 137B)

PERFORMANCE:

PURPOSE	All-purpose turf: Domestic, roadwork's and projects that require LOW long-term maintenance.
ESTABLISHMENT	Establish spring to autumn. Slow growing in winter.
MOWING	About 2-4 mows per year for civil/projects to maintain a dense sward and for erosion control for drainage works.
MAXIMUM UNMOWN HEIGHT	100-150mm
MAINTENANCE	Low (<i>far less than Couch and Kikuyu</i>).
RECOMMENDED MOWING HEIGHT	25-50mm
WATER REQUIREMENTS	Required for establishment, then can exist on rainfall due to deep root system (<i>far less than Couch and Kikuyu</i>).
COLOUR	Vibrant in summer and, although dormant in winter, it maintains colour well.
FERTILISER	Recommended 1 a year (<i>far less than Couch and Kikuyu</i>).
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	High
SALT TOLERANCE	High (<i>higher tolerance than Buffalo and Couch</i>).

Continued...

PERFORMANCE (continued):	
WEED RESISTANCE	Out competes weeds due to its dense sward when maintained.
WEAR AND TEAR RECOVERY	High (<i>based on silica content</i>).
SEED HEAD	In early spring, EZ grass produces a non-fertile purple seed head. At other times this is an indication of stress, poor soil, polluted water etc...
COLD TOLERANCE	Tolerates to -12°C. Following frost, regenerates well after first mow.
HUMIDITY TOLERANCE	High: Rust may appear in humidity if nutritionally deficient, cosmetic only, but can cause damage to leaf structure if untreated. More prone when establishing, and less likely once established.
SHADE TOLERANCE	Med 40%-50% shade tolerance (<i>higher tolerance than Couch and Kikuyu</i>).
PEST RESISTANCE	Less susceptible to lawn grubs and other pests.
THATCHING	Low (<i>no need for vertimowing when less maintenance is required</i>).
DISEASE RESISTANCE	High
USAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadwork's across Australia for erosion control. • Windy coastal areas due to tolerance of higher salt levels. • High density domestic housing developments. • Shopping centres and large landscaping projects.

CURRENT PLANTINGS INCLUDE:	
NSW	QLD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M1 Motor Way, Ourimbah. • South Street Project , Windsor Rd to Richmond Rd, Schofields. • Richmond Rd, Marsden Park. • M7 Richmond Rd Exit. • Cowpasture Rd, Hoxton Park. • Highway improvements at Beresfield, Newcastle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelican Waters, Sunshine Coast. • Beaudesert – Boonah Rd at Wyalong Dam. • Harmony, Sunshine Coast. • Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Kawana.

AVAILABILITY:
NSW, QLD, VIC, SA, ACT & WA (not yet available in NT)

ADVISORY:

John Keleher, Agronomist, TPI Board Member & Turf Farmer • Matt Roche, Agronomist & Consultant at Australian Sports Turf Consultants

REFERENCES:

1. Layt, T. & Paananen, I. (2007) Quantifying the strengthening of soil by commonly used landscape plants and turf.
2. Scattini, W. (2001) Zoysia japonica Zoysia Grass 'SS-500'. Plant Varieties Journal Vol. 13, No. 3.

LICENSING & COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES:

TurfBreed Pty Ltd's contracts under license a large network of growers across the country to grow Empire® Zoysia fit for purpose and region.

To discuss how Empire® Zoysia can become part of your new project or as a long-term erosion control measure, please contact our Territory Managers.

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