

TRADEMARK:	Sapphire®	BOTANICAL NAME:	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>
PBR:	B12 This variety is protected by Australian Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR)		

KEY FEATURES:



- Sapphire® is Australia's 'number 1' Buffalo for shade tolerance.
- Sapphire® looks finer than other Buffalos due to its narrow-folded blade, making it a very high performing Soft Leaf Buffalo.
- Due to its high performance and fast stolon/runner growth, Sapphire® recovers quickly from wear.
- Sapphire® has a slight blue-ish tinge and runners are dark green unlike other popular Buffalos which are largely purple.
- Sapphire® has a dense root system, unlike other commercial Buffalos, improving drought tolerance.
- Sapphire® is reliable and well-regarded to grow quickly after transplanting. A new root system establishes within 14-days of planting/sprigging with good upkeep.
- Sapphire® meets the Erosion Control Australian Standard No# AS5181: 2017 – *Use and installation of turf as an erosion, nutrient and sediment control measure.*

SUGGESTED USES:

DOMESTIC USE	DEVELOPER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manicured appearance is excellent for high-end consumer. • Dark leaf colour attractive to lawn enthusiast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast runner/stolon growth for a quick recovery rate from wear and damage. • Dark leaf colour and soft texture – attractive for longer in winter.

MORPHOLOGY:

PLANT	Growth:	Stoloniferous	Vigour:	Strong to very strong
STOLON	Stolon length:	Medium	Stolon diameter of node:	Medium to broad
	Internode length:	Medium	Internode thickness:	Medium
	Internode colour:	Yellow/green (RHS N77A)		
LEAF BLADE	Shape:	Glabrous	Length:	Short leaf blade 20.2mm
	Profile:	Mature leaves fold shut, making it look finer.	Colour:	Green/blue (RHS 137B)

PERFORMANCE:

PURPOSE	All-purpose turf suitable for domestic and developer wanting a quick recovering, long lasting colour and Soft Buffalo underfoot.
ESTABLISHMENT	Establish spring to autumn. Dormant during low temperatures in winter.
MOWING	Requires regular mowing to maintain good colour but lower than other Buffalos due to low seed head production (about 3 per month).
MAXIMUM UNMOWN HEIGHT	100-150mm
MAINTENANCE	Medium to high.
RECOMMENDED MOWING HEIGHT	Can cut lower than most other Buffalo varieties e.g. 25-50mm
WATER REQUIREMENTS	Required for establishment: 1-14 days (4mm twice a day), 15-28 days (7.5mm once per day), 29-35 days (7.5mm every 2nd day). Then twice weekly to maintain good colour.

Continued...

PERFORMANCE (continued):	
COLOUR	Excellent winter colour. Holds winter colour longer than most Buffalo varieties.
FERTILISER	Every 3 months or as required.
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	High
DISEASE RESISTANCE	High: Avoid watering late afternoon or in the evening to limit leaf spot diseases.
SEED HEAD	Low seed head production
COLD TOLERANCE	Tolerates to -7°C.
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.
SALT TOLERANCE	Medium.
WEED RESISTANCE	High in well established and well maintained lawns.
WEAR AND TEAR RECOVERY	High (<i>due to quick growing stolons</i>).
SUN REQUIREMENTS	Requires 2-4hrs of sun per day.
SHADE TOLERANCE	Full sun to 70% shade.
PEST RESISTANCE	High
THATCHING	Low

ADVISORY:

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

REFERENCES:

1. Paananen, I. (2002) Stenotaphrum secundatum Buffalo Grass 'B12'. Plant Varieties Journal, Vol 15, No. 4.

LICENSING & COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES:

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

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

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