

Bermudagrass

Cynodon Dactylon



Bermudagrass is a warm-season, creeping perennial, sod forming, turfgrass which propagates by seed, runners and underground rootstocks. The short, flat leaves, often conspicuously two-ranked, are 1 to 4 inches long. At the base of each leaf is a prominent ring or fringe of white hair. The leaf sheath is compressed and sparsely covered with fine hair. The slender, spike flowering heads, 3 to 8 in a cluster, grow from 6 to 12 inches high, depending on soil and moisture condition, Spreading habits of this grass may vary from a few inches to 3 or 4 feet, and may reach 15 to 20 feet. The root system develops by sprouting new fibrous roots from the nodes of either the surface runners or underground stems.

Many of the early writers believe that bermudagrass originated in India; however, its scientific name “cynodon” is known to have its point of origin in Africa and most of the improved strains have been developed from this basic stock. Bermudagrass was introduced to the United States about 1751 and is said to be the most important pasture grass in the southern states. It spreads rapidly when cultivated, and if not renovated, it becomes sod-bound and loses vigor in a few years.

It is found growing in all parts of the southern half of the United States from Maryland west to Kansas, Texas and California. Bermudagrass will grow on any moderately well-drained soil, whether acid or alkaline, provided moisture and plant food nutrients are adequate. It responds to a complete fertilizer on low fertility soils, but nitrogen is usually the limiting plant food for maximum growth and production.

Seed is available in the following forms:

Unhulled raw – has the outer skin still intact

Hulled raw – the outer skin has been mechanically removed

Coated – seed has been coated with talc or clay based product, to assist in keeping the seedling moist during germination.

Seeding Rate: 90 – 135 Lbs. /Ac

Height Range (inches): 6 - 12

Seeds Per Pound: 1 to 2,000,000, depending on form (hulled, unhulled, coated)

Taxonomy

Species: Dactylon

Genus: Cynodon

Family: Poaceae

Order: Cyperales

Subclass: Commelinidae

Class: Liliopsida

Division: Magnoliophyta

Subkingdom: Tracheobionta

Kingdom: Plantae



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