

# Lawn Care Guide - Lawn species



## Choosing the right turf can save you up to 13 Sundays a year

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Narrow leaf species like couch and zoysia are best suited to Townsville's naturally hot and dry conditions, as well as periods of drought when water conservation measures are in place.

Keeping broad leaved species such as buffalo and carpet grass healthy is very difficult during dry conditions because they are thirstier than a narrow leaved lawn.

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Couch and zoysia can use much less water, stay green for longer, and save you money on maintenance costs.

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Local research shows that choosing turf more suited to Townsville's conditions reduces weed growth and is often much quicker to mow. That'll save you time and money.

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A living lawn is made up of around 80% water. Broad leaf species like buffalo and carpet grass lose much more water in dry conditions than other species.

This process is called 'transpiration'. It's most common in the warm,

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dry months with low humidity like September, October and November. Strong lawns have two types of root growth - stoloniferous (above the ground runners) and rhizomonous (below the ground runners) that make them stronger in the dry period and also outcompetes many common weeds.

Species such as Buffalo and Carpet grass don't have rhizomes and can be more prone to heat and water stress. It's important that you don't cut these species too short.

### Why should I consider my turf choice?

Just like with any plant, different species of grass thrive in different conditions. If you choose a turf species that's suited to local conditions you'll not only have a strong and healthy lawn but you'll also save yourself on maintenance time, water, and money.

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### Know your grass cheat sheet

	Heat Stress Tolerance	Water Requirements	Shade Tolerance	Weed Tolerance	Estimated Mow Per Year	Water Tolerance	Waste Produced	Ideal Fertilising Time	Recommended Mowing Height	Establishment Method
Buffalo	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	30	MOD	HIGH	Sept or Oct	30-50mm	Seed or Turf
Green Couch	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	25	HIGH	MOD	Sept or Oct	15-30mm	Seed or Turf
Blue Couch	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	25	HIGH	MOD	Sept or Oct	15-30mm	Seed or Turf
Zoysia	HIGH	LOW	MOD	HIGH	16	HIGH	LOW	Sept or Oct	15-30mm	Seed or Turf