

KIKUYUGRASS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SPORTSFIELDS

VARIETIES

Improved, turf-type AZ-1 and Whittet. Whittet is finer textured than common. AZ-1 is an improved of Whittet with smaller leaves and a slower growth habit.

USES

Sportsfields, Parks (including pet), Pastures and Soil Stabilization

SEEDING RATES

1/2 - 1 pound per 1,000 square feet for new turf establishment.
1 - 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet of overseeding into existing turfstand.

ESTABLISHMENT

Germination in 5-14 days with 60 degree soil temperatures. First mowing 3-4 weeks after germination with reel mower at 1 inch height to promote stolon development.

FERTILIZATION

* 6-20-20 with minors as a preplant at 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
* **For potable water** irrigation use Stover Seed Kikuyu Plus PW 12-1-4 every three months during the growing season (March, June, September) at 2.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
* **For reclaimed water** irrigation use Stover Seed Kikuyu Plus RW 2-8-8 every three months during the growing season (March, June, September) at 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

MAINTENANCE

Mowing: 1-2 times per week during the growing season (March-October) at 1 inch preferably with a reel mower.
Thatch: Verticut as needed to reduce thatch. Low traffic areas will need more frequent verticutting than high traffic areas.
Aerification: 1-2 times per year. Hollow tines preferred.

ADAPTABILITY

*Coastal and inland valleys.
*pH Range: 5.5-8.7
*Salinity: Up to 12,000 ppm

RECENT PLANTING SITES

AZ-1

Nordhoff HS Football Field, Ojai
Thousand Oaks Dog Park
San Diego State University Soccer Field
College Park, Oxnard
Freeway/Bicycle Park, La Canada

WHITTET

Southwest Community Park, Oxnard
Hansen Dam Soccer Complex, Sylmar
Ferraro Fields, Griffith Park, Los Angeles
Will Rogers State Park, Santa Monica
San Marcos Soccer Complex, San Marcos



STOVER
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CULTURAL GUIDE

The following recommendations include comments from golf course superintendents in Southern California who have had success in establishing and growing AZ-1 Kikuyugrass.

SEEDING RATES

Newport Beach CC: 1/2 pound to 1,000 square feet. Santa Ana CC: 1 pound to 1,000 square feet for seeding into existing turf, 1/2 pound if seeding into bare ground.

SEEDING METHOD

"Aerified to 1/2", followed seeding with a core destroyer and drag" (Deutscher). "Aerified with 5/8" tines on 2" centers at a depth of 1/2" "(Benedict). Drilled seeded in bare soil at a depth of 1" and got very good results. "Next time I won't go so deep, it may affect the germination rate" (Archbold). Recommend that seed be worked into top 1/2" of soil.

ESTABLISHMENT

For seeding, a minimum soil temperature of 60 degrees is recommended. Reports of germination and establishment have been excellent (Lover). "Summer and fall germination took place in 4 to 5 days" (Benedict). "Establishment and fill-in in one month" (Ramina).

MOWING HEIGHTS

Low mowing heights are key in reducing thatch buildup. Reported mowing heights range from 3/8" to 1/2".

GREEN COLLARS

Knifed around collar every two weeks during growing season (Lover). Use of a 12" barrier system around greens for common kikuyu (Ramina).

COMPETITIVENESS

"Overseeded AZ-1 into existing GN-1 Bermuda" (Benedict). "Once sufficient establishment of Kikuyu has been achieved we intend to eliminate the over-seeding of the fairways with ryegrass as kikuyu has shown itself to provide a much better surface than non-overseeded bermudagrass" (Deutscher). Recommend early fall seeding if the desired effect is for kikuyu to take over bermuda. With kikuyu having a longer growing season it will be able to establish itself more easily in dormant bermudagrass.

FERTILIZATION

Recommend use of 'StoverSeed Plus' fertilizers with trace elements. Available in 'Potable Water' and 'Reclaimed Water' formulations. Specification sheets on these products are available by calling our office or visiting our website at www.stoverseed.com.

SHADE TOLERANCE

Kikuyugrass is not considered a shade tolerant grass, however it exhibits a greater tolerance to shade than bermudagrass. Kikuyu has shown to be more tolerant of shade in inland valleys than along the coast. "Germinated in shaded area where Poa/Ryegrass only grew, common kikuyu and bermuda thinned out" (Michael).

SALT TOLERANCE

Kikuyugrass has shown an increased tolerance to salinity. Laboratory studies are currently being conducted to determine its level of salt tolerance. A USDA salinity lab has shown an 85% emergence with 25 Decicemens as irrigation water in sand tanks at University of California, Riverside.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archbold, Brian Golf Course Superintendent, El Niguel Country Club, Laguna Niguel, CA
Benedict, Ron Golf Course Superintendent, Newport Beach Country Club, Newport Beach, CA
Deutscher, Tim Golf Course Superintendent, Mission Viejo Country Club, Mission Viejo, CA
Lover, Eric Golf Course Superintendent, Mesa Verde Country Club, Costa Mesa, CA
Michael, David Golf Course Superintendent, Friendly Hills Country Club, Whittier, CA
Ramina, Paul J. Golf Course Superintendent, Riviera Country Club, Pacific Palisades, CA
Yenny, Reed CGCS Hillcrest Country Club, Los Angeles, CA
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