



Wildflower Planting for Golf Courses



Planting a Wildflower Area for a Golf Course

The creation of a wildflower area for a golf course situation involves vision, planning, consultation and preparation. The vision is what the superintendent and respective board members/greens committee look to accomplish with the wildflower area. It could be used to establish a feeding/nesting area for animals, add color accent to an otherwise non-descript hole or be something as simple as wanting to break up the monotony of grass, trees, sand and water.

Once the vision is set, planning on what areas to do probably takes the most time. Each person has their idea of where the areas should be and how they are to look. While year round would be ideal, the life cycle for the wildflowers mostly run 4-6 months so either you have 2-3 different mixes for the seasons available or pick which period that the areas could be looking less than

prime while they finish their cycle. These two are where the superintendent is most involved.

Consultations from seed suppliers, fellow superintendents and maybe local experts would be the next step. While the golf course personnel may want a look they have seen on TV or in a magazine, asking those who deal in the products or have experience in using them should be sought out for what will perform best based upon geography, weather and timing.

Though preparation is last, it is probably the most important. Cleaning up and removing of other plant material from the area, proper grow and kill of undesirable weed seed/plant material and amending the soil if needed will help ensure the success of the wildflower area. Providing adequate water, pre/post emergent weed control and timely fertilizer applications if needed will help provide the wildflower area with what it needs to complete it's original vision that the golf course wanted.

For other information on Wildflowers and products for Golf Courses, check out our [website](#).





Golf Course Products List



Warm Season Grasses

- Bermudagrasses**
 - Common
 - Improved
 - Sultan
 - Transcontinental
 - Riviera
 - LaPrima Blend
 - Hybrid
 - Princess 77
- Buffalograss**
- Centipedegrass**
- Kikuyugrass**
 - Whittet
 - AZ-1 Improved
- Seashore Paspalum**
 - Seaspray
- Zoysiagrass**

Cool Season Grasses

Creeping Bentgrasses

- 007
- Backspin
- Dominant
- Dominant Extreme
- Dominant Plus
- Penn A-4
- Penn G6
- Penncross
- Penneagle
- Pennlinks
- Seaside II
- SR1019
- SR1020
- SR1119
- SR7200 Velvet
- Tyee

Fine Fescues

- Creeping Red
- Chewings
- Hard
- Sheeps
- Slender Creeping Red
- Strong creeping Red

Perennial Ryegrasses

- Champion GQ Blend
- Grand Slam Blend
- PhD Blend
- VIP Blend

Perennial Ryegrasses, Salt Tolerant

- Grand Slam 'Saline' Blend

Specialty Grasses

- Texas Bluegrass
- Poa trivialis
- Poa supina
- True Putt Creeping Bluegrass

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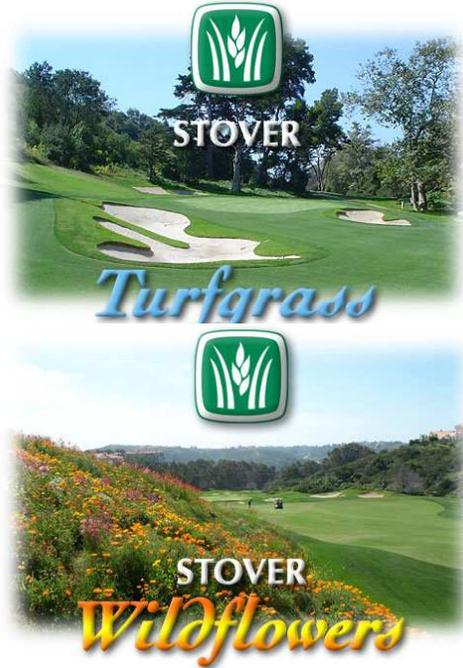
Wildflowers (check website for complete list - examples below)

- California Poppy
- California Wildflower mix
- California Native Wildflower mix
- Hummingbird/Butterfly mix
- Partial Shade mix
- Coastal mix
- High Sierra mix
- Southwest Desert mix

California Native Grasses/Shrubs

Check website for Searchable Plant Database. Custom mixes available.

Erosion control products such as mulches, binders, pre-plant fertilizers



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www.stoverseed.com



Bermudagrass Establishment

The Establishment and Maintenance of Bermudagrass from Seed

SEED

Bermudagrass seed is available in several forms - hulled, unhulled and coated. Unhulled seed is the natural seed form, which will germinate in 7 - 14 days. Hulled seed has had the outer skin (hull) removed for faster germination, 4 - 7 days to germinate. Coated seed has been pelleted with clay containing nutrients to improve ease of planting and establishment, germination in 5 - 10 days. In all 3 forms, minimum germination of quality seed is 80%, with seed counts ranging from 1 to 2 million seeds per pound.

SOIL PREPARATION

Remove old turf and weeds. Do not plow these under as they take too long to decompose. If soil is light and sandy, add sterilized manure or a composted mulch material to the top few inches of soil. If soil is heavy or clay, add gypsum or lime (a soil test is recommended to determine optimal rates) to the soil and mix in well with some mulch and sand. Cultivate your soil to a depth of 6 inches, incorporating lime, any organic soil amendments and preplant fertilizers as needed or based on soil tests. Prepare a medium-fine, firm seedbed - using a light roller on the finished seedbed is beneficial to level and firm the area.

SEEDING AND IRRIGATION

Bermudagrass seed should be planted in late spring or early summer when night time temperatures are consistently above 65 deg F (18 deg C). Plant 3 to 4 pounds of hulled seed, or 4 to 5 pounds of unhulled seed, or 4 pounds of coated seed per 1000 square feet of lawn. Sow half of the seed in one direction, and the other half at right angles to the first half. Rake the seed in lightly, covering no more than 1/8 inch with pulverized manure, peat moss or another fine soil material and then firm the seedbed. Apply water evenly and with a fine spray in order not to disturb the newly planted seed. Keep the soil continually moist for 10 to 14 days or until the new lawn is well sprouted and has had a chance to get established. After the seedlings are well established, start reducing the frequency of watering, while increasing the amount of water applied to encourage deep root growth. Once fully established, properly maintained bermudagrass turf will use far less water than many other turfgrass species.

FERTILIZATION

Only fertilize the young lawn if the early growth is weak or yellow. Approximately four weeks after seeding, apply a complete, balanced fertilizer to the newly established turf area. For faster coverage during the establishment year, a rate of 1 1/2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet is recommended every month during the growing season. Bermudagrass responds well to regular applications of nitrogen. Consult your fertilizer dealer for specific recommendations.



MOWING MAINTENANCE

NO SPECIAL MOWER IS NEEDED FOR THIS PREMIUM BERMUDAGRASS PRODUCT.

Results are best when blades are kept sharp. Recommended mowing height is 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches. Don't mow the new lawn until it is at least two inches high and make sure that the mower is especially sharp for this first cutting to reduce damage to the young grass. The first 2 or 3 cuttings should not be shorter than 1-1/2 inches. Subsequent cuttings should be about 3/4 of an inch to promote the best growth possible, although bermuda can be kept at a 2" height with satisfactory results. Grass clippings can generally be left on the grass, as long as they are not excessive - they will decompose and add nutrients to the root zone.

PEST AND WEED CONTROL

Several weed control products are labeled for bermudagrass turf during establishment, as well as for later maintenance. Occasionally bermudagrass turf can suffer minor damage from turf diseases and insect pests. Overall, well maintained seeded bermuda turf is resistant or tolerant to most turf insects and diseases. This environmentally friendly turf species requires few chemicals for good growth. Consult your local extension office or turf chemical dealer for appropriate control recommendations in your area.

WINTER OVERSEEDING

In temperate and transition growing regions, both seeded & vegetative bermudagrass turf goes dormant during winter, turning brown until warm temperatures return the following spring. Winter overseeding with cool climate turf species is generally not recommended on a newly established bermudagrass turf. If you must overseed your new stands of bermuda, then plant the ryegrass at half the normal seeding rate. Too heavy of a seed rate application or too invasive of preparation method can severely damage any bermuda stand, especially a newly established stand. On mature healthy bermudagrass, a fall overseeding application of perennial ryegrass seed such as 'Grand Slam Overseeding Blend' can produce good results.. Due to the density of bermuda turf, the ryegrass seeds must be raked in well for good soil contact.

ANNUAL SPRING / SUMMER BERMUDAVERSEED

To improve your bermudagrass stand and for better transition results each year, an annual light seeding with a Certified Turf Type Bermudagrass is recommended in late spring/early summer.



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