



# Getting started

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# Getting started – Q&As

Before you make the exciting decision about purchasing your new lawn, we suggest you **consider the following questions** to help guide you on what variety will best suit your region, home and lifestyle.

## Grass selection

### ● Do you have a particular variety in mind?

### ● Do you prefer a narrow or broad leaf texture?

For example:

- Broad leaf – Prestige and Palmetto Buffalo
- Medium-broad leaf – Sapphire Buffalo
- Fine-medium leaf – Empire and Nara Native Zoysia and Kenda Kikuyu
- Fine leaf – Augusta Zoysia, OZTUFF and Stadium Sports Couch

### ● What is your yard going to predominantly be used for?

- Young kids and pets?
- Active lifestyle?
- Aesthetic appearance?

### ● Does your yard have sun or shade?

- Shade = large trees, fencelines, shadow from houses

### ● How much sun will your lawn/yard get each day (hours)?

- If you have shade – the best varieties are Buffalos
- But if you have 3-4 hours sunlight a day you could consider a Zoysia as well

### ● Drought tolerance?

- All grasses require water, but some perform better with less water than others because of their drought hardiness. Varieties ranked in level of drought hardiness are; Couch, Zoysia, Kikuyu and Buffalo. (Always be mindful of your Local Council's Water restrictions).



### ● Low maintenance? How much mowing do you want to do? Are you a person who loves to spend time mowing your lawn?

- Low maintenance lawns are slower growing varieties such as (in order of maintenance) Zoysias, Buffalo, Couch and Kikuyus.

You can treat all of them as high mowing lawns if you continue to fertilise and water.

However, you can benefit from the slow growing characteristics of Zoysia grasses by not excessively watering and fertilising.

### ● Soil type?

- Most yards have a good depth of underlay soil. Before you lay any new turf, you need at least a minimum of 100mm of good quality composted organic soil - anything less will have a detrimental effect on the sustainability of your lawn. The healthiness of your new lawn ultimately depends on your soil depth and quality.

### ● Salt tolerance?

- Not all grass species are equal in salt tolerance. There are some species like Zoysias and OZTUFF Couch, which are very good at handling salty environments (such as coastal areas and saline waterways).

### ● Cost v quality?

- When dealing with a myhomeTURF supplier you can be assured that quality is a top priority and your new lawn will be acclimatised to your region. All our lawns are grown in accordance with best practice management.

### ● Native grass?

- Nara Native Zoysia was born and bred in Australia and is ideal for local conditions. Nara Native Zoysia is great native grass, high in drought tolerance, soft underfoot and performs better than many other turf varieties.

*Refer to Quick Lawn Selection Guide for more information on the different grasses.*



## Getting started – Q&amp;As



## Preparation

Before you take delivery of your new lawn the site must be prepared properly with any old existing rubble, grass or weeds removed and new soil prepared.

Now is also the time to consider whether you want to install a new irrigation system. Doing this later will disturb your turf and may leave unsightly scarring in your new lawn.

*Your myhomeTURF supplier can provide you with helpful tips or a quote to prepare and lay your new turf.*



## Time of year for delivery?

Any time of year for most turf types is fine – region dependent.

During the hot weather it is important to immediately lay your new turf once delivered and keep the soil moist down to at least 15cm deep.

During the cooler months it is important to remember that the lawn will take longer to establish as the ground is cold.

Always consider the establishment period prior to laying and when you want to be able to use it. If you want your new lawn ready for Christmas, plan well in advance (up to six weeks) so effective strong growth can occur to withstand lots of traffic.

*It is not advised to lay Zoysias, such as Empire, Augusta and Nara Native, during winter in the southern cooler states – typically you would avoid laying between 15th May to the 15th August in these areas.*



## Watering system?

Before laying any turf ensure you have adequate water supply for a six-week establishment period.

Then be sure to follow your variety's maintenance requirements.



## Getting started – Q&As

### Customer delivery

Turf is generally harvested the day before delivery. This means that when you receive your turf it is already, at minimum, 24-hours old. The key advice is to install your new turf immediately.

#### ● How long can I leave the turf on a pallet?

- Depending on the time of year, once received your turf needs to be laid as soon as possible as it will heat up on the pallet if left for an extended period and cause heat burn damage to your turf. You will have a bit more leeway during winter, but it will still heat-up. During summer it is important to lay the turf immediately.

#### ● What is heat burn on a pallet?

- Heat burn is caused by the turf sitting too long on a pallet and then heating-up from the centre. Heat burn begins at the time of harvest and continues until the turf is removed from the pallet, therefore the longer the turf is left on the pallet the more damage can occur.

#### ● How much turf is on a pallet?

- The amount of turf on a pallet can vary but an average full pallet is about 50 metres.

#### ● How much does a pallet of turf weigh?

- A 50 square metre pallet can weigh up to 1 tonne but may vary from 700 kilograms to 1.2 tonnes.

#### ● How will my turf be delivered?

- Turf will be delivered typically on a truck. The truck will vary in size from a small 10 tonne to a large semi-trailer carrying 22 tonnes.
- This has implications for accessibility of your delivery truck to your home. When ordering your turf, please alert your **myhomeTURF** supplier of any challenges that may need to be addressed when accessing your yard.



#### ● Time of delivery?

- Whilst everyone would like an early delivery of their new turf, typically, the distance from farm to your house means that it may not arrive until later in the day. Most importantly, the speed in which you lay and water your new turf will help its establishment.





# Cost of installing your new lawn



Installing a new lawn is far more cost-effective than many other alternatives you may be considering for your front or back yard.

A quality lawn can add to the value of your property – a national survey involving 114 Australian Real Estate agents in 2012 revealed that **natural lawn can add 18 per cent (or up to \$75,000) to the selling price** of homes nationwide.

## The cost of turf

The cost of turf is based on the final quality product you as the customer receive from our **myhomeTURF** suppliers.

All turf grown by **myhomeTURF** suppliers is of the highest standard with a commitment to service and assistance.

### Units/Size

Turf is sold by the square metre and can come in rolls or slabs (depending on your supplier).

Before ordering your turf, you will need to calculate how many square metres you will need for your yard.

See the **Measuring your Lawn Fact Sheet** for how to calculate the amount (in square metres) you require whether that be a square, rectangle, circle or triangular shape yard. We also show you how to calculate an irregular shaped yard.

ALWAYS remember to order extra! For simple areas like a rectangle, order 5% extra.

For more complex irregular areas, order 10% extra. This will allow for any slight miscalculations.

It's always better to have some turf left over than to run out.

### Turf pricing by turf types

There are many types of turf varieties available therefore, before selecting a variety, it is important to identify which grass is most suitable for your yard.

Before choosing a lawn consider the following characteristics:

- **Shade tolerance?** Are there a lot of trees, gardens or house eaves shadowing your yard?
- **Drought tolerance?** Is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- **Wear tolerance?** Does your lawn need to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?



- **Soft to touch and underfoot?** How important is the softness of your lawn? Do you like to walk or sit on it, or are aesthetics more important to you?
- **Colour?** Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?

Once you decide which type of grass will work best for you, the price may be a deciding factor.

You may have undertaken a more extensive garden renovation than was planned, or you may prefer a premium lawn.

Outlined in this table is the 'Expect to Pay' ranges for each **myhomeTURF** variety.

Keep in mind that prices may vary from supplier to supplier.

BUFFALO	Prestige	\$13 - \$16.50/m <sup>2</sup>
	Sapphire	\$10 - \$15/m <sup>2</sup>
	Palmetto	\$10 - \$15/m <sup>2</sup>
ZOYSIA	Empire	\$12 - \$16/m <sup>2</sup>
	Nara	\$11 - \$16/m <sup>2</sup>
	Augusta	\$22 - \$26/m <sup>2</sup>
KIKUYU	Kenda	\$7 - \$11/m <sup>2</sup>
COUCH	OZTUFF	\$8 - \$10/m <sup>2</sup>
	Stadium	\$8 - \$10/m <sup>2</sup>



## Cost of installing your new lawn

### Delivery of your turf

Generally, expect a delivery fee of approximately \$90-\$150\* (depending on location and offloading conditions) and a further \$2/m<sup>2</sup> for laying services (depending on site).

### Other services

Many myhomeTURF suppliers offer additional services. These can include:

- Delivery and lay
- Preparation, delivery and lay (suppliers may need to arrange a site visit to assess)

*\*Exact costs can be confirmed when completing a myhomeTURF supplier quote request.*



### DIY lawn installation

If you are happy to put a bit of hard work into your yard, you can install your instant lawn yourself.

You will save money on labour, and you'll get the added benefit of exercise and the satisfaction that you DIY.

If you are preparing your yard yourself, first make sure you eliminate all existing weeds, grasses, and rock debris. To avoid drainage issues, ensure the soil gradient slopes away from paths and buildings.





# Choosing your turf by climate



## Best turf types for Brisbane climate

Any lawn variety you choose for either south-east or north Queensland must be able to cope with dry, sub-tropical to tropical conditions.

There's not one particular variety that is suitable for Brisbane and surrounding regions – rather each individual location will have its unique characteristics that determine the most suitable turf variety of your home.

Before any decisions are made you need to find a lawn that suits your climate and personal needs. Look at these lawn characteristics:

- Shade tolerance – is there much shade coverage from trees, gardens or house eaves?
- Drought tolerance – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- Wear tolerance – to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?



- Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?
- Does the lawn need to cope with tough, cold winters where frosts may dominate?

*Four suitable grasses for Queensland are Zoysia, Buffalo, Couch and Kikuyu.*

*Kikuyu grass, however, is more suited to the warm temperate climate of the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs regions of Queensland.*

## Best turf types for Adelaide climate

Weather-wise, Adelaide is a town of contrasts. The Mediterranean climate gives rise to chilly, single-figure overnight lows in winter, before turning on the burners over summer, with the dry, penetrating sun so often raising the mercury above the 40°C mark.

Grasses that can cope with these extremes can be hard to come by. Adelaideans need something that won't brown off with the occasional frost, but that will also be able to cope with the scorching, bone-dry temperatures of January through to March.

But before any decisions are made you need to find a lawn that suits your demographics within Adelaide and personal needs. Look at these lawn characteristics:

- Shade tolerance – is there a lot of trees, gardens or house eave coverage?
- Drought tolerance – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- Wear tolerance – does your lawn need to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?



- Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from either – a Buffalo or a Kikuyu grass.*



## Choosing your turf by climate

### Best turf types for Melbourne climate

Melbourne's weather is notorious for being changeable. You don't just get four seasons in one year in Melbourne, you get them all in one day!

So, when it comes to the best lawn recommendations for Melbourne, there's not one variety that comes out on top.

The best warm season grass varieties for Melbourne are Buffalo, Kikuyu, Couch and certain Zoysia grasses (Avoid laying between the 15th May and 15th August).

Remember that Melbourne's weather is different to both New South Wales and Queensland and predominantly has become quite wet in the spring and summer months with dryer, colder winters.

Before any decisions are made you need to find a lawn that suits your demographics and personal needs. Look at these lawn characteristics:

- Shade tolerance – is there much shade coverage from trees, gardens or house eaves?



- Drought tolerance – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- Wear tolerance – to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?
- Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?
- Does the lawn need to cope with tough, cold winters where frosts may dominate?

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from a large selection of grasses – Buffalo, Kikuyu, Couch and Zoysia.*

### Best turf types for Perth climate

Today Perth is no longer a slave to its own inaccessibility and therefore the weather, the lifestyle and the people are all able to enjoy a large cross section of different lawns to grace their fine yards.

Perth is Australia's sunniest capital, averaging almost nine sun-drenched hours per day throughout the year.

Perth also has relatively clearly defined seasons, with a hot dry summer working into a cool, wet winter.

For lawns, frosts are a rarity, with the very mild winters a trademark of Perth's hot-summer Mediterranean climate with low humidity.

So, which grasses best cope with the gorgeous weather of Perth? Let's have a look.

The best warm season grass varieties for Perth are Buffalos, Zoysias and Kikuyus as they all suit the climate.

But before any decisions are made you need to find a lawn that suits your demographics within Perth and personal needs. Look at these lawn characteristics:



- Shade tolerance – is there a lot of trees, gardens or house eave coverage?
- Drought tolerance – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- Wear tolerance – does your lawn need to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?
- Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?
- Soil type – do you need to first test your soil to see whether it needs more nutrients or topsoil added?

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from a large selection of grasses – Buffalos, Zoysias, Kikuyu and Couch.*



# Choosing your turf by climate



## Best turf types for Sydney climate

Wondering what is the best lawn for Sydney and New South Wales? With seasonal conditions varying from hot and humid to wet and cold there are many grasses to choose from.

Before any decisions are made you need to find a lawn that suits your demographics and personal needs. Look at these lawn characteristics:

- Shade tolerance – is there much shade coverage from trees, gardens or house eaves?

- Drought tolerance – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- Wear tolerance – to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?
- Do you want a strong green colour that is aesthetically pleasing?
- Does the lawn need to cope with tough, cold winters where frosts may dominate?

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in your lawn, Sydney offers a large selection of suitable grasses – Buffalo, Zoysia, Couch and Kikuyu.*







# Choosing your turf type

## Best shade tolerant

### Considerations

- Evaluate the amount of sunlight your lawn receives per day – shade-tolerant grasses do need at least three to four hours of direct sun or four to six hours of infrequent sunlight a day
- Do trees or bushes shade your grass or will they grow and eventually cause shade?
- If living on a small block with a big house it is probable that there will be shaded areas
- Choose a grass variety that has a high shade tolerance

Most lawns need a minimum of four hours direct sun to survive and there are shade tolerant grasses that thrive in partial shade.

Before choosing a shade tolerant grass, establish how much shade your lawn is in during the day.

If you have a small block with a large house this often creates shade across your lawn.



If you have young trees or bushes that could eventually cause shade, determine just how much this could cover the lawn.

And, if your yard is south facing consider just how much shade your grass will be in during the day.

*In Australia many varieties with high shade tolerance are warm season grasses such as Buffalo (up to 70% shade) and Zoysia (up to 40% shade). Varieties such as Couch and Kikuyu can only tolerate 40% shade cover a day.*

## Best drought tolerant

### Key features

Drought tolerant varieties:

- Thrive for longer during prevailing dry conditions
- Recover quickly from long dry periods
- Stay green for longer during the dry
- Require infrequent deep watering

Drought-tolerant grasses have characteristics that allow the lawn to stay alive and green for a long period of time under drought conditions and heavy water restrictions.

Many drought-tolerant grasses can survive and even maintain a green colour.

Behind a lawn's drought tolerance are characteristics of an efficient root system, above or below the ground, that repairs bare or damaged grass.

Many drought-resistant grasses can also go dormant during harsh conditions but are able to recover when water can be re-applied.

It is important to remember that drought tolerance



means the degree or length or time a grass can go without water. Lawn will eventually die completely if it has no watering whatsoever.

The aim is to identify a lawn variety that can withstand periods of extended dry or drought conditions.

*Ideal drought-tolerant grasses are Zoysia, Couch, Kikuyu and Buffalo.*



## Choosing your turf type



### Best low maintenance

#### Key features

- Less mowing
- Less fertiliser
- Water efficient
- Weed resistance
- Pest and Disease resistance

A low maintenance lawn is one that requires less mowing, fertiliser and water, giving you more time to enjoy your lawn.

For families who want the lifestyle and not the work, such as mowing, fertilising and watering, then a low maintenance lawn is for you.

Alternately, if your area is prone to water restrictions, a low maintenance lawn generally survives longer with less watering.

Usually, a low maintenance lawn has very slow-growing characteristics, a deep root system that seeks out soil moisture and low nitrogen fertiliser.

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from a selection of grasses – Zoysias and Buffalos.*



### Best hard wearing

#### Key features

A hard-wearing grass can tolerate the wear and tear of lots of traffic and quickly repairs when damaged.

Hard-wearing varieties have:

- A deep-rooted system
- Quick recovery growth rate from wear and damage
- A dense cushion layer to protect the lawn
- A moderate thatch layer protecting the lawn from high traffic

Hard-wearing grasses are ideal for families wanting a place for children and dogs to play or where the lawn is used as a walkway.

*Ideal hard-wearing grasses are Kikuyu, Couch, Buffalo and Zoysia.*





## Choosing your turf type

### Best salt tolerant

#### Key features

- Tolerant to high saline conditions
- Ideal for beachfront properties and pool sides
- Cope with swampy waterfront conditions
- Maintain their quality and green colour

Salt tolerant grasses are very popular and perfect for beach and waterfront properties.

Salt tolerant grasses are also ideal for yards where saline or poor-quality water and soils exist.

*The most sought-after salt-tolerant grass is Zoysia which, in some cases, has naturally evolved to cope with saline conditaions.*

*Certain Couch grasses are also suitable for salty conditions.*



### Best for dogs

#### Key features

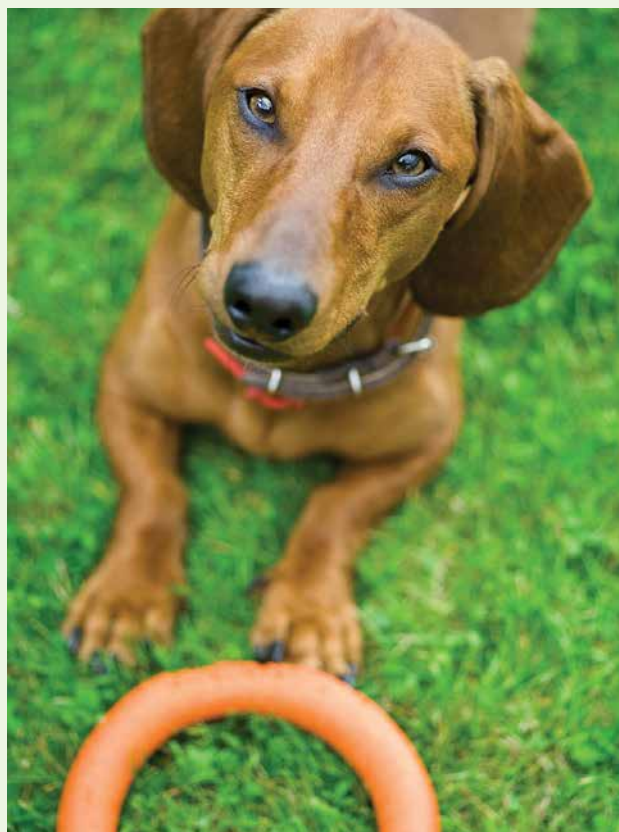
- Hard-wearing
- Deep-rooted system
- Quick recovery from damage
- Soft underfoot and to touch

Many families want a luscious green lawn that can cope with the heavy traffic from their active dog.

There are many turf varieties available that will remain green despite a dog's high energy activity thanks to deep roots that give it a better wear tolerance.

When considering a dog-friendly grass you also need to ascertain if your lawn will have full sun or be subject to some shade.

*Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from a wide range of grasses – Kikuyu, Couch, Buffalo and Zoysia.*





# Leaf characteristics



Many homeowners prefer a particular leaf that resonates from their childhood or where they have seen turf in different areas such as sports fields or gardens.

Different grasses have different leaf widths, folds, tip shapes and colours which offer different soft to touch underfoot and aesthetic appearances.

Grass types vary in the width of their leaves and whether leaf tips are sharp-pointed, rounded or boat-shaped.

The arrangement of grass leaves in new shoots, called vernation, may be V-shaped and folded or circular and rolled.

Your lawn's growth habit also provides grass I.D. clues. Some lawn types form clump-like bunches, others spread via above-ground stems known as stolons, or below-ground stems known as rhizomes or both.

But before any decision is made you need to find a lawn that suits your climate within your region and your personal needs.

## Look at these lawn characteristics:

- **Shade tolerance** – is there a lot of trees, gardens or house eave coverage?
- **Drought tolerance** – is the area prone to little rain and drought conditions?
- **Wear tolerance** – does your lawn need to cope with the rough and tumble from kids and pets?
- **Soft to touch and underfoot?**
- **Do you want a strong green colour** that is aesthetically pleasing?
- **Soil type** – do you need to first test your soil to see whether it needs more nutrients or topsoil added?

Then based on what characteristics you need and want in a lawn you can choose from a large selection of grasses – Buffalos, Zoysias, Couches and Kikuyu. A lot of your decision comes down to the leaf appearance. myhomeTURF has offered some of the following suggestions with our lawn varieties. This table compares myhomeTURF varieties and clearly shows the type of leaf blade.



# Leaf characteristics



## Broad

Grasses with a broad leaf have been popular in recent years. They have been bred to be Soft to touch and underfoot.

Typically leaf size = 7mm wide and upwards.

Examples of Buffalo Grasses that have a Broad Leaf are *Prestige* and *Palmetto Soft Leaf Buffalo*.



## Medium - broad

These grasses are usually in-between Broad and Medium.

Typically leaf size = similar to a broad leaf in size but the growth habit of the grass means the broad leaf folds at a 90 degree angle giving the appearance of Medium-broad leaf.

Buffalo Grass such as *Sapphire Soft Leaf Buffalo*.



## Fine-medium

Once again, these grasses are in-between two categories Fine and Medium.

Typically leaf size = ranges from 4mm-7mm

Zoysia grasses such as *Empire* and *Nara Native* are classified as having a Fine-medium leaf. *Kenda Kikuyu* also has this leaf type.



## Fine

The Fine leaf classification is the narrowest of all the leaf types.

Typically leaf size = less than 4mm

Grasses such as *Augusta Zoysia* and the Couch varieties – *OZTUFF* and *Stadium Sports*.

This table compares myhomeTURF varieties and clearly shows the type of leaf blade.

Grass type:	Broad blade	Medium-broad blade	Fine-medium blade	Fine blade
BUFFALO	Prestige, Palmetto	Sapphire		
ZOYSIA			Empire, Nara	Augusta
KIKUYU			Kenda	
COUCH				OZTUFF, Stadium



## NOTES

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