

Sapphire®

SOFT LEAF BUFFALO
Stenotaphrum secundatum 'B12' 

The Finer Textured Buffalo Lawn

NEXT GENERATION

Sapphire® Buffalo has the vigour of a young vibrant breed and establishes extremely well.

Sapphire® soft leaf Buffalo was bred in Australia from the older Australian variety of Sir Walter Buffalo turf.

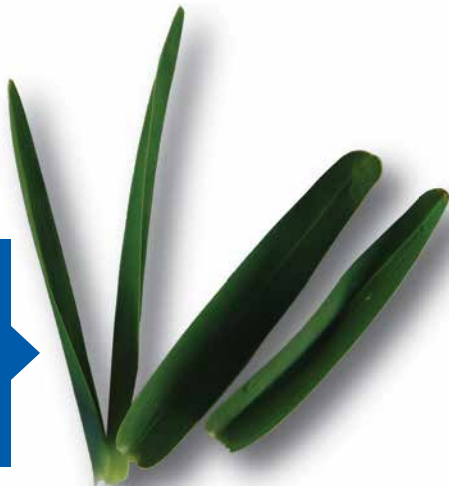
Next generation Sapphire® turf looks so much better and finer textured than other varieties. It is easily as good as any other Buffalo in performance. Sapphire® Buffalo—performance and good looks at a better price.



LESS SEED HEAD, BETTER FOR ALLERGIES

Research from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Queensland and HAL Richmond, NSW data have shown that **Sapphire® turf has 39% less seed** than the average of other popular Buffalo types. These statistics are based over a year of observations.

Sapphire® Buffalo (left) has a finer leaf in comparison to other Buffalo varieties (right)



AUSSIE OWNED AND BRED

Sapphire® Buffalo was bred in Australia and first grown here. It is an overseas success as it didn't take long for America to realise how good this grass is. Over a thousand acres are now grown in the US. Sapphire® turf is the only Australian bred Buffalo to make it overseas.

In a recent Australian industry study, Sapphire® turf had the best shade tolerance score of all Buffalo types

For more information and research go to
www.sapphireturf.com.au

WINTER COLOUR

Data similar to other good buffalo types (DPI QLD & HAL study).

SALT TOLERANCE

DPI research showed it was better than most varieties.

DROUGHT TOLERANCE

Excellent once established due to its deep root system. In 2007, a large study showed Sapphire had the best rating when the water was turned off for 30 days of all 7 tested Buffalos.

RECOVERY FROM WEAR

It performed very well in wear trials (DPI & HAL study).

ESTABLISHMENT

The new turf is quicker to strike than the old generation, making Sapphire® Buffalo the safer choice.

OTHER QUALITIES...

Hot weather tolerance: Excellent tolerance. It thrives in hot, humid and desert areas.

Cold tolerance: Tested down to -10 °c in Canberra.

Shade tolerance: Best Buffalo in shade. Good for 0%-60% shade. Often works in 70%, but with reduced quality.

Mowing height and frequency: 35-45mm in full sun, 50-60mm in shade. Less mowing than Couch and Kikuyu, similar to most other Buffalo types.

Root structure: Deep rooted.

Thatch: Sapphire® turf has less thatch build up compared to most other Buffalo types.

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The #1 Buffalo in Shade

Sapphire® turf was recently found to be the number one soft leaf Buffalo grass in shade. This has been proven by research data from Horticulture Australia and the Department of Primary Industries Queensland (DPI QLD). See summarised table below for more information.

Note: Ozbreed took the raw data from the HAL & DPI QLD research and summarised the averages of that data in the table below for an easier to read format.



SHADE RATINGS TABLE

CULTIVAR	0% shade	30% shade	50% shade	70% shade	90% shade	Avg. 0-70% shade
Sapphire	7.65	6.93	6.5	5.65	3.33	6.68
Shademaster	7.48	6.15	6.33	5.65	2.43	6.4
Sir Walter	7.15	6.28	5.85	5.4	3	6.17
Matilda	7.1	6.6	6.15	5.08	2.58	6.23
Kings Pride	7.5	5.93	6.33	5.43	2.48	6.3
ST-26	7.58	5.23	5.83	5.08	3.18	5.93
Jabiru	6.35	6.08	5.4	4.93	2.6	5.69
ST-85	6.18	5.78	5	4.2	.1	5.24

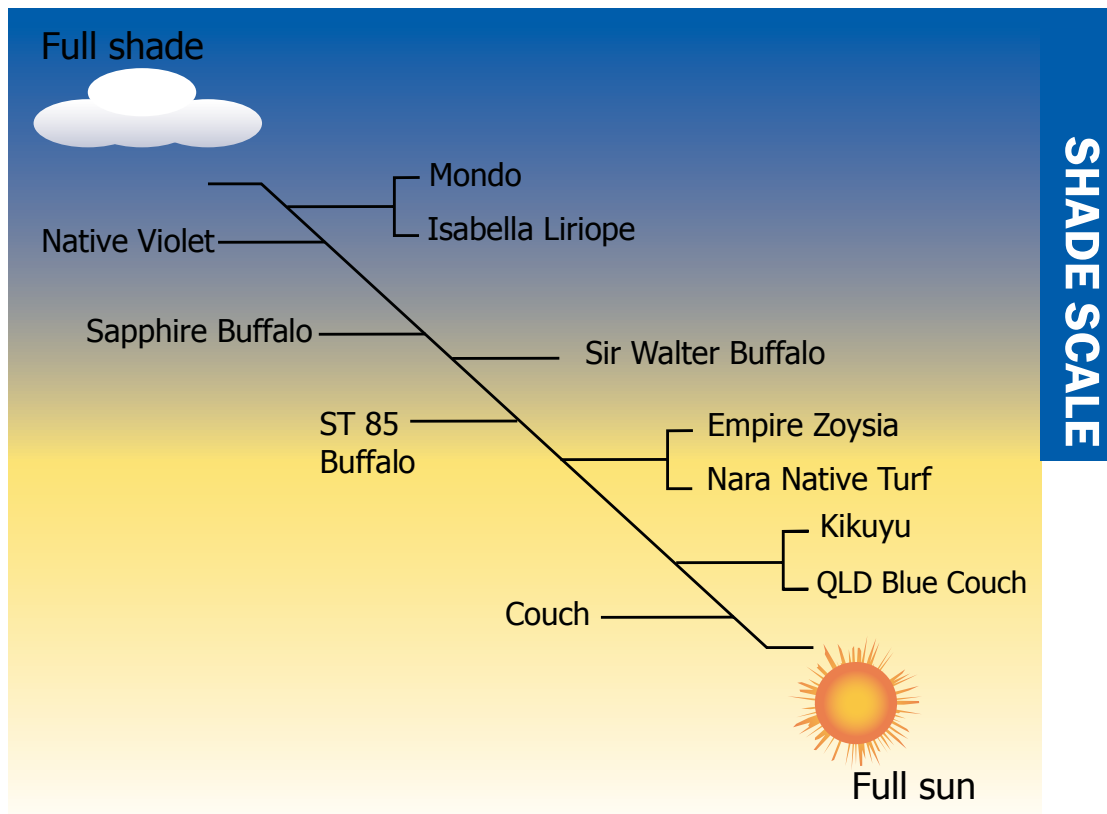
Note: These are averages from subjective turf quality ratings.

(0=dead 6=acceptable 10=excellent)

Four ratings were taken (16th and 30th March 2009, 20th April 2009 and 11th May 2009).

Data from Adaptation & Management of Australian Buffalo Grass Cultivars for Shade & Water Conservation. HAL and Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Shade Percentage Averages from HAL & DPI QLD Research



For more information and research go to www.sapphireturf.com.au

Sapphire® Turf Installation and Care

SOIL PREPARATION

There is no better time to enhance the ultimate beauty and success of your new Buffalo lawn than by improving the soil before any planting takes place. The benefits of proper and complete soil preparation are:

- Improved uniformity
- Increased density
- Faster recovery from wear
- Reduced use of water, fertiliser and chemicals
- Reduced maintenance

Why Is Good Soil So Important?

For optimum growth, Buffalo grass needs just four things (in the proper balance) to grow: sunlight, air, water and nutrients. Reduce any of these, or provide too much of any one, and the grass may die or simply suffer. In the right proportions, the Buffalo grass will flourish, providing not only beauty to the landscape, but also a clean and safe place to play and many benefits to the environment.

Grass obtains three of these four essential factors (air, water and nutrients) from the soil, but many soils are less than ideal for growing grass. Some soils contain too much clay and may be very compacted. It's great for roads, but bad for grass because air and water aren't available to the roots and the roots can't grow. Other soils may have too much sand. They are beautiful on a beach, but difficult to grow grass because water and nutrients won't stay in the root zone long enough for the plant to use. Another frequently observed problem with many soils is that its pH (the degree of acidity or alkalinity) is too high or too low for optimum grass growth.

What Is The Best Soil For Your Buffalo Grass?

Loams, sandy loams and loamy sands, with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0 are the very best soils for producing a beautiful, high-use, low-maintenance Buffalo lawn. Unfortunately, this ideal soil mixture is seldom found on any property after construction.

How Deep Should Your Soil Be For Buffalo?

The absolute minimum soil depth for a care-free lawn is 10 cm; however, for deeper root penetration and the benefits that brings, the accepted standard is 15 cm.

Can Soils Be Improved?

Practically without exception, not only can most soils be improved, they usually need to be improved to obtain the maximum results with only a minimum of other on-going effort.

The knowledge of what is necessary, the amount and availability of materials and the immediate costs of time and money are the factors that typically deter people from taking the steps necessary to improving the soil. While some people do not fully understand the importance of good soils for

grass, many also believe they can save time and money by ignoring the need to improve their lawns soil.

The fact is that failing to improve the soil before planting is only inviting a much greater and continual investment of both time and money, that will never return its value as fully as preparing the soil properly before planting any grass.

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: Preparing Your Soil For Your New Lawn

Visit <http://youtu.be/-ylhIGydzPM> to watch the video.

HOW TO INSTALL SAPPHIRE® BUFFALO

- Remove all building waste and weeds.
- Spread a free draining soil to a depth of 7-15cm (roots can penetrate much deeper) or loosen ground and mix in appropriate soil conditioners. Phone a soil supplier for more advice on this option. For sandy soils, simply mix in organic material and rotary hoe.
- Level the surface using a screeding board, lawn leveller or similar device.
- In hot months, moisten the soil but do not make the soil too wet. Do not lay the buffalo grass on hot, dry soil.
- Lay the Buffalo grass as soon as possible after delivery.
- On hot days, lay a section of the Buffalo grass and lightly water. Repeat until all turf is laid. On cool days, the Buffalo grass can be laid all at once. Roll and water thoroughly within one hour of laying turf.
- Water thoroughly for 7-10 days or until the Buffalo lawn is established take care that the water is saturating the soil beneath the turf. In colder months, the buffalo lawn will take longer to establish. The turf should not dry out until roots are established.
- When the soil has firmed and the grass has rooted down, usually 2-3 weeks after laying (longer during winter), mow lightly to tidy up your new buffalo lawn.

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: How To Install Turf Properly

Visit <http://youtu.be/3avu1VTa3uc> to watch the video.

MOWING YOUR LAWN

- Mow every 5-10 days in the hot months; mow every 3-6 weeks in the cold months.
- Mowing height will vary: 2-5cm in sunny/lightly shaded situations, 5-7cm in heavier shaded situations.

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: Lawn Mowing Tips

Visit <http://youtu.be/IGLpBszQJfk> to watch the video.

FERTILISING TIPS

- Buffalo grass needs to be fed to remain strong and healthy.
- It's important to use a slow release fertiliser one month after laying (applying fertiliser before this time has shown not to make a difference to lawn establishment).
- Use a complete fertiliser in early April and early September.
- At other times of the year use a slow release fertiliser. If you need a quick green up, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen to promote a lush green lawn- e.g. Supergreen or organic based slow release fertilisers. In heat of summer avoid over fertilising or using manure based products.

For the recipe to keep Sapphire® Soft Leaf Buffalo lush green even in winter, visit this page:
<http://sapphureturf.com.au/recipe-to-keep-sapphire-soft-leaf-buffalo-lush-green-all-year-round.php>

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: Watering and Fertilising Tips For Your Lawn

Visit <http://youtu.be/iQh7aQvI4Sk> to watch the video.

PESTS, WEEDS AND DISEASES

Sapphire® Buffalo is resistant to pests, weeds and fungi compared to most other turf varieties, but as with any natural product, occasional problems can occur. If these problems occur we recommend the following:

- **Pests**—watch for the lawn grub (e.g. web worm or army worm) and african black beetle; apply suitable pesticides according to directions.
- **Weeds**—if weeds infest, hand eradicate before seed head develops or apply a suitable weedicide (ask your local garden centre).

NB: sprays containing DICAMBA must not be applied to soft leaf buffalo grass...!!!!!!

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: Lawn Grub and Disease Control

Visit <http://youtu.be/6isTKHlw5tw> to watch the video.

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE: Killing and Keeping Weeds Out Of Your Lawn

Visit <http://youtu.be/08IVHpXQ-TU> to watch the video.

WATERING TIPS

Newly installed Buffalo has important watering needs. Proper watering immediately after installation will ensure the lawn becomes established, and it will also have an impact on how well it continues to flourish for years to come. Begin watering new turf within a half hour after it is laid on the soil. Apply at least 2 to 3 cm (1 inch) of water so that the soil

beneath the Buffalo is very wet. Ideally the soil 7 to 10 cm (3 to 4 inches) below the surface should be moist. Below are some watering tips for new buffalo lawns:

- Pull back a corner of the Buffalo grass and push a screwdriver or other sharp tool into the soil. It should push in easily and have moisture along the first 7 to 10 cm (3 or 4 inches), or you need to apply more water.
- Make absolutely certain that water is getting to all areas of your new lawn, regardless of the type of sprinkling system. Corners and edges are easily missed by many sprinklers (if windy) and are vulnerable to drying out faster than the centre portion. Also, areas near buildings dry out faster because of reflected heat and may need more water.
- Runoff may occur on some soils and sloped areas before the soil is adequately moist. To conserve water and ensure adequate soak in, turn off the water when runoff begins, wait 30 minutes to an hour and restart the watering on the same area. Repeat this start and stop process until correct soil moisture is achieved. For the next two weeks keep the below-turf soil surface moist with daily (or more frequent) watering. Especially hot, dry or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts and frequency.
- As the turf starts to establish its new roots into the soil, it will be difficult, impossible and/or harmful to pull back a corner to check beneath the turf, but you can still use a sharp tool to check moisture depth by pushing it through the buffalo grass and into the soil.
- Water as early in the morning as possible to take advantage of the daily start of the grass's normal growing cycle, usually lower wind speeds and considerably less water loss because of high temperature evaporation.
- If the temperature approaches 37 °C (100 F), or high winds are constant for more than half of the day, reduce the temperature of the buffalo lawn surface by lightly sprinkling the area. This sprinkling does not replace the need for longer, deeper watering, which will become even more critical during adverse weather conditions.
- Infrequent and deep watering is preferred to frequent and shallow watering because the roots will only grow as deeply as its most frequently available water supply. Deeply rooted grass has a larger "soil-water bank" to draw moisture from and this will help the grass survive drought and hot weather that rapidly dries out the upper soil layer.

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- Water thoroughly and regularly after Sapphire® Buffalo has been laid to encourage a deep and vigorous root system (it will be able to fossick for water and therefore be more able to withstand hot dry conditions).
- Once the root system has fully established, water thoroughly only when needed-when a slight wilting is visible, usually once every 7-10 days in summer (on sandy soils more often), with much less or no water in cooler months.
- Remember that infrequent, deep watering promotes a healthy lawn.
- Over watering encourages excessive growth, disease and root rot.
- It is best to water in the early morning; night watering is not recommended.