

### Key points

- Improved overall turf performance
- Increased durability and wear tolerance
- Reduced plant height
- Increased density
- Tolerant to saline conditions
- Low in thatch
- Lower mowing heights with less scalping
- Medium-fine texture with dark green colour

### Characteristics and areas of use

Compared to common Bermuda grass, Sahara is more uniform, has increased density and improved summer green colour. Sahara is superior in drought tolerance to common and many other Bermuda grass varieties. It is recommended for use on golf courses (fairways & roughs), home lawns, sports fields, parks, playgrounds and for erosion control.

### Breeding history

Sahara was bred by Dr. Arden Baltensperger of Seeds West, Inc. Sahara was the first seeded Bermuda grass to be developed exclusively for turf. Sahara was released in 1988 after over 20 years of research.

### Sowing rate

For new turf applications sow 0.5 - 1.5 kg/100m<sup>2</sup> and for repairing existing turf sow at 0.25 - 0.5 kg/100m<sup>2</sup>. Sahara should be sown when soil temperatures are consistently above 18°C. For best results, sow in full sun in well-drained soils, and soil moisture must be maintained for at least 1 to 2 weeks after sowing through irrigation or natural rainfall. Under ideal conditions, germination may begin within 7 to 10 days. Allow 10 to 21 days for full germination, and full coverage may be attained in 4 to 6 weeks. More time may be needed for establishment if sowing early or late in the season. Mowing may begin when grass is 1/3 taller than the desired mowing height. Sahara performs best at mowing heights of 13 - 38 mm. For optimum performance fertilise with 0.25 - 0.5 kg/100m<sup>2</sup> actual N per month during the growing season.

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