



STOVER SEED®

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Technical Data and Information Product Sheet

BOWIE BUFFALOGRASS (*Buchole dactyloides*)

DESCRIPTION

According to University reports, Buffalograss is among the most drought tolerant grasses. Because of its drought tolerance, low nutritional requirements and short stature, it is drawing increasing attention for its potential as a low maintenance Turfgrass for western lawns. Buffalograss is classified as “California Friendly” by California Water Agencies and recommended for use in landscapes as a low water user. Buffalograss is a permanent, low growing, warm season grass. It produces vigorous stolons and exhibits excellent drought and wear tolerance. It is not tolerant to shady areas. Bowie Buffalograss is an improved variety that exhibits fine leaf texture, good turf density, and a low growth habit.

CHARACTERISTICS

Features

Superior heat and drought tolerance
Stoloniferous growth habit
Excellent, warm weather seedling vigor
Wide area of adaptation

Benefits

Meets water conservation goals
Outstanding wear tolerance and recovery
Fast establishment
Low maintenance

USES

Buffalograss can be grown successfully for use as:

- * Golf Courses
- * Parks
- * Natural Ground Cover
- * Playgrounds
- * Lawns

SEEDING RATES

New turf: 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 130 pounds per acre.

Overseeding existing turf: 1 to 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 43 to 86 pounds per acre.

ESTABLISHMENT

Warm season grasses such as buffalograss should only be seeded when daytime temperatures are consistently 80 degrees or greater (generally between the months of April and October) Emergence can be anywhere between 14 and 21 days. The higher the soil temperature, the quicker the germination as long as there is adequate moisture (irrigation). First mowing approximately 21 days after emergence.

SPECIFICATIONS

BOWIE BUFFALOGRASS

95% Minimum purity
80% Minimum germination
50,000 seeds per pound
Primed with KNO3



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CULTURAL INFORMATION

Water Requirements

Frequent, light watering is necessary for seed to germinate and become established. Buffalograss is a warm season grass. Once the grass becomes established it has the ability to withstand summer drought conditions under reduced irrigation schedules. For turf managers that use irrigation systems and calculations, Buffalograss can be irrigated at 60% of average ET_0 (Reference Evapotranspiration) rates to achieve optimum turf quality. Because of the ability of warm season grasses to establish roots at a depth of 3 feet or more it is able to draw water from a larger soil profile which enhances its drought tolerance. **As a result, once Buffalograss becomes established (2-3 months in warm weather) it can withstand irrigation schedules at 40% of ET_0 (a reduction of 25%) and still produce acceptable turf.** Specific information on Turfgrass irrigation schedules and ET rates can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/> and at <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1195.pdf> and <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8395.pdf> General irrigation guidelines dictate that turf should be watered in early morning hours and that about 3/4 of an inch of water should be applied but not to the point of runoff.

Climate Conditions

Buffalograss is a native American grass that adapts to the climates of North-Central and Southern states. Growth is greatest during warm months with some dormancy in winter months.

Soil Conditions

Buffalograss will tolerate a wide range of soils from heavy clay to sandy loam. Ideal pH range is 6.0 to 7.5. Good drainage is important for root development.

Fertilization

Use of a starter fertilizer when seeding is highly recommended. After establishment fertilize during periods of active growth in warm months with a balanced fertilizer. Avoid using products with a high nitrogen (N) content as such use increases water use. Application rates should be between 2 and 3 pounds of nitrogen (N) per 1,000 square feet per year during the growing season. Slow release fertilizers are best.

Mowing

The recommended mowing height varies from 1.5 to 4 inches depending on the intensity of management and desired appearance. Buffalograss can be mowed only once a year to once every two weeks depending on the appearance desired. Mowing frequency is directly related to amount of water and fertilizer applied.

Drought Tolerance Comparisons of Commonly Grown Grasses in California

Source: University of California, ANR Publication 8395

Relative Ranking	Cool-season turfgrasses	Warm-season turfgrasses
Superior		Bermudagrass Buffalograss
Excellent		Seashore paspalum Zoysiagrass
Good		St. Augustinegrass Kikuyugrass
Medium	Tall Fescue	
Fair	Perennial Ryegrass Kentucky Bluegrass Creeping Bentgrass Hard Fescue Chewings Fescue Red Fescue	

HELPFUL LINKS

Stover Seed: www.stoverseed.com

University of California: <https://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8395.pdf>

National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP): www.ntep.org



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