

## Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)



### **Uses:**

Home Lawns  
commercial landscapes

Fairways,  
Sportsfields  
Parks

Racetracks

### **Growth Style:**

Rhizomatous and  
stoloniferous

### **Texture:**

Medium to coarse leaf

### **Description:**

Native to East Africa, Kikuyu was originally imported to Australia as a Pasture grass. Kikuyu is a fast repairing grass following wear and tolerates dry periods in summer. New male sterile varieties such as Crowne and Village Green stay greener in winter and do not visibly flower. These varieties are available as turf only. Common types can be propagated by seed or vegetative methods.

### **Preferred Mowing Height and frequency:**

Regular mowing improves the quality and look of Kikuyu. It should not be left longer than 35mm, as thatching and scalping tendencies will increase.

The ideal mowing height is 20-25mm. It can be mown shorter (15mm) if mown with a cylinder mower regularly in spring and summer. Less frequent mowing is required in autumn and winter.

### **Attributes:**

Good drought tolerance,  
High wear resistance  
Minimal irrigation  
Recycled water can be used as an irrigation source.  
Minimal fertility requirement

### **Maintenance:**

For optimum growth apply a high Nitrogen lawn food in September.  
Remove thatch each spring in mid to late November and follow this with an application of lawn food and a deep irrigation.  
Topdress with sand or loamy soil to achieve a level surface.  
In summer the use of wetting agents such as Anco "HydrateIT" will keep the turf green and reduce the incidence of soil hydrophobicity.  
In March apply a Complete NPK Fertiliser to aid root and rhizome production prior to winter dormancy. This will hasten the spring green-up process.