

## Santa Ana Couchgrass (*Cynadon dactylon x Cynadon transvaalensis*)



### Uses:

Home Lawns  
Commercial landscapes  
Golf tees, Fairways,  
Sportsfields, Tennis courts  
Cricket wickets  
Croquet greens  
Parks

### Growth Style:

Rhizomatous  
and stoloniferous

### Texture:

Fine leaf

### Description:

Developed by the University of California, Santa Ana 's entry into Australia can be traced back to importation by Anco in the early 1980 's and the then Department of Agriculture Frankston Turf Research facility. Santa Ana is a hybrid couch and produces sterile seed. It can therefore only be propagated from sprigs or turf. It produces a dense, soft lawn and makes an excellent turf when managed correctly.

### Preferred Mowing Height and frequency:

Regular mowing improves the quality and look of a Santa Ana lawn. A manicured look can be achieved with Santa Ana if mown short. It should not be left longer than 25mm, as thatching and scalping tendencies will increase. The ideal mowing height is 8-15mm. It can be mown shorter (6mm) if mown with a cylinder mower regularly in spring and summer. Less frequent mowing is required in autumn and winter.

If a very short lawn is required (6-8mm) bi-weekly mowing in the growing season will be necessary to avoid scalping.

### Attributes:

Excellent drought tolerance, Fineleaf  
Salt tolerant, High wear resistance,  
Short dormancy period, Tolerant of Recycled water.  
Adapted to a wide range of soil types.

### Maintenance:

Apply a high Nitrogen lawn food in September and again in December. Remove thatch each spring in mid to late November and follow this with an application of Anco lawn food and a deep irrigation. Topdress with sand or loamy soil to achieve a level surface and to minimize scalping. Topdressing can take place during mid-late spring. 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 enhance root production prior to winter dormancy.