



**PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TURF
GROWERS & INSTALLERS**

TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

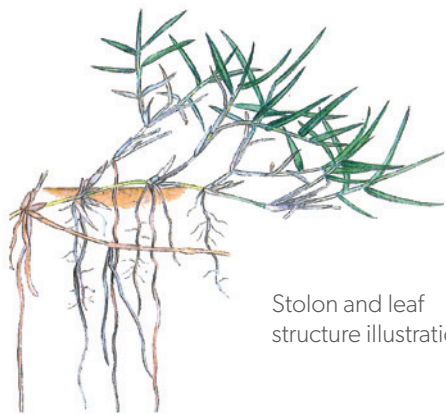
TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda

SPECIFICATIONS

VARIETY	Hybrid Bermuda
BOTANICAL NAME	Cynodon transvaalensis x Cynodon dactylon
GROWTH HABIT	Perennial stoloniferous growth habit that also produces rhizomes. Dense, finely textured turf.
POSITION	Full sun to medium shade (minimum 4-5 hours direct sunlight per day).
SOIL TYPE	Suitable for all types but free draining soils recommended.
LEAF TYPE	Fine / Average width 2.5mm / Average length 30mm / Mid dark green
OPTIMAL pH RANGE	5.5 - 7
MOWING HEIGHT	8mm – 36mm
SEED PRODUCTION	Produces a seasonal seed head with 2-4 raceme.
LOCATION	Supply available Australia-wide.
USES	Perfect for domestic, commercial and high wear sports applications and areas of moderate shade. Variety is low maintenance and requires minimal nutrient and irrigation application once established. Very drought tolerant and quick to repair from wear.
PLANT PROTECTION	Ensure supplier is a licensed Lawn Solutions Australia member and product has been certified by AusGAP. Product should be accompanied with a 10-year Product Warranty Certificate and Certificate of Authenticity. PBR protection pending.
MAINTENANCE	Medium.

TOLERANCE *(From very low to very high)*

HIGH TEMPERATURE	
DROUGHT	
CLOSE MOWING	
NUTRIENT REQUIREMENT	
FROST	
SHADE	
WET SOIL	
WEAR	
SALINITY	



Stolon and leaf structure illustration.



TifTuf leaf ratio to \$2 coin.

TIFTUF HYBRID BERMUDA GRASS

INTRODUCTION

Tiftuf is a hybrid Bermuda grass that has been chosen from over 30,000 different cultivars for its outstanding drought and wear tolerance and the ability to hold an impressive level of green cover through the colder months, these traits make **Tiftuf** the perfect option as a high wear surface (e.g. parks, schools, sports turf, etcetera).

Depending on the surface growing medium **Tiftuf** can requires fewer nutrient inputs and up to 38% less standard water requirements of standard warm season grasses making it the first and only turfgrass to ever receive the Smart Approved WaterMark in Australia and across the world. It boasts reduced divot repairs and high traffic area wear, rapid regrowth in areas of wear and is more shade tolerant than any other Bermuda grass.

To successfully maintain a **Tiftuf** surface, there are a few key points that need to be understood to get the best out of this exceptional performer.

INSTALLATION

Stolonisation

Tiftuf only requires a stolonisation rate of 2 – 5% grass compared to most other couch variety rates that are completed at 10%. The density of **Tiftuf** stolonising material, conveys to a lesser amount needed for this process.

Slabs, Standard & Maxi Rolls

Tiftuf is a very densely matted grass with exceptional tensile strength and extensive rhizome and root growth beneath the soil surface. When **Tiftuf** is delivered fresh from your local Lawn Solutions Australia grower, it is important to install the grass as soon as possible to reduce the risk of the roots drying out to the point where the plant will be set back.

Important points for Tiftuf installation:

- Install the grass as soon as possible after delivery.
- Lay on a bed of 50 – 100mm of quality predominated sand turf underlay.
- Do not apply starter fertiliser when laying **Tiftuf**, this will promote vertical growth and can lead to early scalping.
- Saturate the soil bed for 10 days then reduce water inputs after maturity.
- When established, the plant should need no more than 12mm of water per week except in extreme heat.
- Mow within 5 days of laying or as soon as the roots are established to promote lateral growth.



Close-up of live stolon.

FERTILISING

Tiftuf has been specifically bred to require less inputs than other warm season grasses. **Tiftuf** requires up to 50% less the amount of Nitrogen to maintain healthy growth and appearance. If the nutritional inputs are managed correctly, **Tiftuf** is a very low maintenance, low input turf.

Important points for fertilising Tiftuf:

- Recommend applying starter fertiliser application 1 month after installation.
- Only fertilise when the turf appears to be deficient e.g., losing colour.
- Recommended to fertilise in small amounts more often, as per soil analysis reports.
- Apply both liquid and granular fertiliser, at rates as per soil analysis reports.
- Liquid Iron and other micronutrients can be used to improve colour without the use of Nitrogen based fertilisers, as per label rates.
- Over fertilisation can lead to excessive growth and mowing, add nutrients in small amounts and monitor.
- Apply combination product of fertiliser and oxadiazon pre-emergent in Spring and Autumn – (this will help to prevent weeds germination – summer grass, winter grass and crowfoot), as per label rates.
- **Tiftuf** growth can be regulated with controlled inputs.
- Sand profiles will need monthly fertiliser (alternate liquid and granular fertiliser, at rates as per soil analysis reports).

MOWING

Tiftuf's growth habit allows the grass to be mown at a range of heights. **Tiftuf** has been bred specifically for the sports turf market and can be kept as low as 4mm and let to grow out to 36mm depending on the specific usage requirements.

With regular mowing, **Tiftuf** retains a beautiful dense canopy and emerald green colour that is second to none. If the grass is left for long periods without mowing, caution must be taken so as not to take too much green cover off at once.

Important points for mowing Tiftuf:

- Never remove more than 1/3 of the canopy at any one time unless dethatching.
- Can be mown from 4mm to 36mm is recommended.
- If scalping occurs, do not lower the height of cut until leaf blade growth resumed.
- Mowing frequency can be reduced with controlled plant growth regulators (PGR), as per label rates.
- Mowing too low will reduce turf density as will mowing too high.
- Rotary and reel mowers can be used, sharp blades are essential for rotary mowers as **Tiftuf** is very soft and will tear if a blunt, slow mower blades will do the same.
- Ensure when double and triple cutting that you change directions.
- Best results are seen with a well-maintained reel mower
- Mowing frequency can be reduced by limiting N and irrigation.
- Mow within 5 days of laying or as soon as the roots are established to promote lateral growth.
- Never scalp at temperatures over 30 degrees, surface without green cover can reach over 50 degrees and all surface material may die, and regrowth will have to come from subsurface rhizomes slowing recovery.

TIFTUF HYBRID BERMUDA GRASS

IRRIGATION

Tiftuf is the most drought tolerant couch grass available on the Australian market and requires considerably less water to maintain acceptable growth and appearance. In fact, **Tiftuf** is the only turf variety to receive the Smart Approved WaterMark.



*Excluding Western Australia and Northern Territory

Tiftuf requires only 12mm per week which is less than half that is required by standard warm season grasses. Growth of **Tiftuf** can be regulated by decreasing water inputs therefore reducing maintenance needs.

Important points for irrigation of **Tiftuf**:

- Once established, water only when there are signs of the stress e.g. changing colour, wilted leaves.
- Do not over water in the winter months.
- Water deeply to soak the top 100mm of soil.
- Water in the early morning or evening for improved efficiency
- Excess irrigation can hinder the grass rather than help.
- **Tiftuf** requires up to 38% less water than other warm season grasses.

SHADY AREAS

Although **Tiftuf** is not regarded as a highly shade tolerant grass, it is much more tolerant than comparable grasses in its genus. **Tiftuf** can withstand areas of low light needing only 4.5 hours of direct sunlight per day. The timing and intensity of the light is important so check with your Lawn Solutions Australia supplier for best applications.

Important points on **Tiftuf** in shady areas:

- **Tiftuf** can be used in areas of medium shade.
- Be careful not to over water shady areas.
- Reduce traffic on lawn in heavily shaded areas where possible.
- Ensure there is at least 100mm of quality predominate sand turf underlay beneath the turf when laid.

WEED & PEST CONTROL

The rapid coverage and dense undergrowth of **Tiftuf**, along with its low input requirements and winter growth activity mean that it can compete quite successfully with weeds and foreign turf grass species that may try and invade your lawn.

Tiftuf has also proven to be resistant to several pests and diseases but may need some assistance from time to time. **Tiftuf** can be treated with most commonly available chemicals that are suitable for couch grasses if the application directions are followed but it is always a good idea to check with your LSA supplier for compatibility before use.

- Applications of insecticides, fungicides as required as per recommended label rates as required.

RENOVATING

Due to **Tiftuf**'s having double the amount of gibberellic acid than other couch varieties, **Tiftuf** responses and regrows well after dethatching/scarification and aeration even under play and/or training.

- Dethatching/Scarification (with correct industry equipment) as required, improves the turfgrass health.
- **Tiftuf** responses exceptionally to yearly renovations and regular light topdressings.

OVERSOWING

Non-Elite level surfaces (council parks, schools, etcetera).

As **Tiftuf** can hold an impressive level of green cover through the colder months oversowing the turf surface is not required.

Elite level surfaces (where TV colour is required).

Due to **Tiftuf**'s exceptional tensile strength and extensive rhizome and root growth beneath the soil surface, it is recommended to dethatch/scarify (with correct industry equipment) prior to oversowing to ensure seed establishment.

It may also require applications of ryegrass removal product (as per label rates) to ensure it is removed at the end of the Autumn/Winter season.

CONCLUSION

Tiftuf has been specifically bred to withstand harsh and varied climates such as those experienced in Australia. **Tiftuf** can be kept with very minimal inputs, keep an impressive appearance or treated with extra care to be prepared like a bowling green. **Tiftuf** is an exceptional turf grass and with the correct maintenance and upkeep, will shine in any a high wear setting (e.g. parks, schools, sports turf, etcetera). For further advice on **Tiftuf** and general lawn care tips, contact your local supplier or visit the Lawn Solutions Australia website.



ANCO INSTANT TURF PROJECTS

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Glen Waverley Campus



FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE

Flemington



PRINCES PARK

Carlton



LONSDALE GOLF CLUB

Point Lonsdale



SORRENTO GOLF CLUB

Sorrento

OUR TURF IS AUSGAP CERTIFIED



The difficulty in buying turf for both domestic and larger commercial sites in the past has been that there has not been any independent organisation to certify that the turf grown is done to a certain standard.

That uncertainty has changed enormously in recent times with the adoption of a new turf accreditation program called AusGAP.

The AusGAP program works with breeders and turf-growers to help maintain that the turf-type that is specified or ordered is in fact the original grass-type that was bred and carries that brand.

All Lawns Solutions Australia suppliers are accredited by AusGAP.



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If you want to know more about our grass types,
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