



Sapphire, Soft Leaf Buffalo

Watering your New Sapphire Buffalo Lawn

Newly installed buffalo grass has very important watering needs. Proper watering immediately after installation will ensure the buffalo lawn becomes established, and it will also have an impact on how well the buffalo lawn continues to flourish. Begin watering new buffalo grass within a half hour after it is laid on the soil. Apply at least 2 to 3 cm. (1 inch) of water so that the soil beneath the buffalo lawn is very wet. Ideally the soil 7 to 10 cm. (3 to 4 inches) below the surface should be moist.

Below are some watering tips for new Buffalo lawns:

1. Pull back a corner of the buffalo grass and push a screwdriver or other sharp tool into the soil. It should push in easily and have moisture along the first 7 to 10 cm. (3 or 4 inches), or you need to apply more water.
2. Make absolutely certain that water is getting to all areas of your new buffalo lawn, regardless of the type of sprinkling system you use. Corners and edges are easily missed by many sprinklers (if windy) and are particularly vulnerable to drying out faster than the centre portion of your buffalo lawn. Also, areas near buildings dry out faster because of reflected heat and may require more water.
3. Runoff may occur on some soils and sloped areas before the soil is adequately moist. To conserve water and ensure adequate soak in, turn off the water when runoff begins, wait 30 minutes to an hour and restart the watering on the same area. Repeating this start and stop process until correct soil moisture is achieved. For the next two weeks keep the below-turf soil surface moist with daily (or more frequent) watering. Especially hot, dry or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts and frequency.
4. As the turf starts to establish its new roots into the soil, it will be difficult, impossible and/or harmful to pull back a corner to check beneath the turf, but you can still use a sharp tool to check moisture depth by pushing it through the buffalo grass and into the soil.
5. Water as early in the morning as possible to take advantage of the daily start of the grass's normal growing cycle, usually lower wind speeds and considerably less water loss because of high temperature evaporation.
6. If the temperature approaches 37°C (100 F), or high winds are constant for more than half of the day, reduce the temperature of the buffalo lawn surface by lightly sprinkling the area. This sprinkling does not replace the need for longer, deeper watering, which will become even more critical during adverse weather conditions.
7. Infrequent and deep watering is preferred to frequent and shallow watering because the buffalo grass roots will only grow as deeply as its most frequently available water supply. Deeply rooted grass has a larger "soil-water bank" to draw moisture from and this will help the grass survive drought and hot weather that rapidly dries out the upper soil layer.

Mowing your Sapphire Buffalo Lawn:

1. Mow every 5-10 days in the hot months; mow every 3-6 weeks in the cold months.
2. Mowing height will vary: 2-5cm in sunny/lightly shaded situations, 5-7cm in heavier shaded situations.

Watering your Sapphire Buffalo Grass:

1. Water thoroughly and regularly after Sapphire Buffalo Grass has been laid to encourage a deep and vigorous root system (the buffalo grass will be able to fossick for water and therefore be more able to withstand hot dry conditions).
2. Once the root system has fully established, water thoroughly only when needed-when a slight wilting is visible, usually once every 7-10 days in summer (on sandy soils more often), with much less or no water in cooler months.
3. Remember that infrequent, deep watering promotes a healthy lawn.
4. Over watering encourages excessive growth, disease and root rot.
5. It is best to water in the early morning; night watering is not recommended.

Fertilising your Buffalo Grass

1. Buffalo grass needs to be fed to remain strong and healthy.
2. Use a complete fertiliser in early April and early September.
3. At other times of the year use a slow release fertiliser. If you need a quick green up, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen to promote a lush green lawn- e.g. Supergreen or organic based slow release fertilisers. In heat of summer avoid over fertilising or using manure based products.

Pest, Weeds and Diseases

Sapphire Buffalo Grass is resistant to pests, weeds and fungi compared to most other turf varieties, but as with any natural product, occasional problems can occur. If these problems occur we recommend the following:

1. Pests - watch for the lawn grub (e.g. web worm or army worm) and African black beetle- apply suitable pesticides according to directions.
2. Weeds - if weeds infest, hand eradicate before seed head develops or apply a suitable weedicide (call Turf Force for more information)

NB: sprays containing DICAMBA must not be applied to soft leaf buffalo grass.

Water Restrictions (Please be mindful of our regions limited water supply).

- Most water restriction levels permit you to water with a hose 1 hour a day for the first 2 weeks on newly established lawns. *Note: These restrictions are limited to specific times during the day. (Call Turf Force or check your local governments website for up to date details).*
- Normal restrictions apply after 2 weeks, which is limited to bucketed water or in extreme circumstances no water at all.

Water saving techniques

Consider the following to improve your lawns water storage capacity:

- Cultivate it regularly
- Aerate the soil with a fork or lawn aerator
- Top dress your lawn annually
- Avoid compacting the soil

Water Tank Rebate

The government currently has in place a rebate scheme on tanks. For a 3000L capacity tank and above that's internally attached to laundry cold water tap or a toilet suite you are entitled to a \$1500 rebate. Please refer to <http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/> for more information.

Domestic grey water use in Queensland

Please refer to the following web listed pdf file:

www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/pdf/greywater_brochure_1.pdf

or type **Domestic grey water use in Queensland** into your search engine.