



## Velvetene Salt Tolerant Turf

### When to water?

1. Upon installation, completely soak the turf with approximately 25mm of water.
2. Check that the water has seeped through the turf and into the soil below within the first hour of laying your new lawn.
3. Water daily (depending on weather conditions)
4. **Most water restriction levels permit you to water with a hose for 1 hour a day during the first 2 weeks on any 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).**
5. Normal restrictions apply after 2 weeks, which for the bigger restrictions is limited to bucketed water or no water at all. (consider our water saving techniques below)
6. Try to ensure the turf is kept watered for at least the first 3 weeks, this will allow the roots to take hold.
7. Water twice daily for the first week, then once a day for the second week and every 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> day for the next week.
8. Weather conditions dictate the amount of frequency of watering, be certain that your new turf has enough moisture to survive hot, dry or windy periods. Reflected heat from buildings dries turf out quickly, be sure to water these areas more often.
9. If there are any signs of turf drying out. i.e. gaps appearing between the joins in the turf, water immediately. *NB: please allow for some shrinkage when turf is first laid.*
10. Once fully established (appx. 8 weeks) the turf should only be watered when necessary and during hot weather every second day, this produces a more drought, tolerant lawn.

### Mowing

Never mow Velvetene™ to short in any one mow. Drop mowing heights gradually until you have reached the desired length.

- Summer mowing height 10 - 12 mm every 7 - 14 days.
- Winter mowing height 15 - 18 mm every 21 - 35 days.

With intensive grooming at 3mm, the surface of Velvetene™ will become very fine and dense as a putting green. Without mowing, it will generally grow to a height of 75 - 100mm with seed heads slightly higher. Velvetene™ paspalum will withstand severe scalping at any time up until 6 weeks prior to winter dormancy. Any later than this and the leaf of the grass will not fully recover until early spring. If required, renovations are best carried out within three months post winter dormancy, with light verti-cutting conducted at other times.

### Fertilising

If not intensively managed, there is no requirement for fertilizer. However, it responds quickly to fertilizer when used, resulting in excessive growth at high rates. Apply around 25kg /ha/month N in the growing season on sands with less on heavier soils. Responds well to iron.

*Apply fertiliser sparingly in Spring and Autumn. When applying chemicals check labels to ensure suitable for Paspalum lawn.*

Seasol is another type of natural fertiliser that Turf Force recommends. It can be applied on a fortnightly, monthly or yearly basis depending on your desired requirements. Seasol naturally promotes overall plant health and growth, stimulates root development, and increases plant resistance to pests such as insects and fungal diseases. For more information on where to buy visit <http://www.seasol.com.au/>

## **Weeds**

Current herbicides available are generally not labelled specifically for seashore paspalum with reference made to 'turf' only. Always test for herbicide sensitivity if effects are unknown. Alternatively call Turf Force on 1300 4 GRASS (47277) or consult a relevant specialist for more information.

## **Insects**

In general, seashore paspalum has few problems with insects. Chemical control is only required in severe infestations. An occasional infestation with cutworm requiring chemical treatment for control may be necessary.

## **Disease**

Fungus disease may occur under hot humid conditions when the grass is under stress, organisms such as Fusarium, Helminthosporium, Dollar spot may be found but rarely require treatment.

Cultural practices that injure the plant such as scalping should be avoided during periods of hot humid weather; avoid excessive nitrogen applications; avoid evening irrigation where possible. Maintain balanced levels of applied nutrients.

Click on the following links to assist in identifying [pests](#), [weeds](#) and [diseases](#).

## **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. (Consider our water saving techniques below)

## **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](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/pdf/greywater_brochure_1.pdf)

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