

WINTERGREEN COUCH

Wintergreen Couch is a fine leaf, bright emerald green turf that has been widely used by the Australian turf industry for over 20 years. Wintergreen is more than suitable for a variety of applications including; Sportsfields, domestic and commercial lawns, parks, golf course fairways and general landscaping.

Scientific name: Cynodon dactylon

Species common names: Green couch (Australia); Bermudagrass (USA)

Cultivar name: 'Wintergreen'

Origin: Originated from a bowling green at Nyngan, NSW. Breeder: Peter McMaugh, Sydney.

Texture: Fine.

Description: Bright emerald green leaves. Leaf length (fourth internode) is 5-11 mm. Leaf width (fourth internode) is 1.9-2.6 mm. (Data from 'Winter Gem' PBR growing trial.)

Uses: Sportsfields, domestic and commercial lawns, parks, golf course fairways and general landscaping.

Mowing height: Best at 15-25 mm. Down to 6 mm (with a cylinder mower).

Method of propagation: Vegetative sod, sprigging.

Preferred soil types: Sandy to clay loams (pH 6-8) maintained with good nitrogen fertility (as per other Cynodon dactylon cultivars).

Tolerances

Heat: Good

Cold: Maintains good turf quality during winter from southern Queensland to Victoria. Top growth killed by heavy frosts. Good winter colour retention under light frosts.

Shade: Poor. Best in full sun like all Cynodon dactylon genotypes. Requires a minimum of 70% full sunlight to avoid loss of sward density.

Drought: Good tolerance of dry conditions.

Salinity: Low-moderate salinity tolerance. Among the least salt-tolerant of the green couch cultivars tested to date.

Wear: Fair. Less tolerant of wear than other green couch cultivars like 'Grand Prix', Legend™ and Conquest™.

Herbicide sensitivity: DSMA and MSMA can be used to remove other grasses. A wide range of herbicides can be safely used to remove broadleaf weeds. Use only registered herbicides in accordance with the label.

Pests and diseases: Lawn grubs (army worm, sod webworm) during summer and autumn.

Comments:

One of the two Australian industry standard cultivars widely sold as a "cheap and green" commodity. Uncontrolled commercial multiplication for >20 years has resulted in wide genetic variation within and between commercial sources of 'Wintergreen'.

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