



## **Care Guide for Tech Turf & Shadow Turf**

*Congratulations* on selecting Turffalo brand turfgrass – the top quality lawn that conserves water, reduces mowing and improves the environment! You are on your way to a lush, green lawn that requires less water and less work to maintain. If the flats of plugs have been shipped to you, they should be immediately removed from the boxes, placed in an area with around 20% sunlight (avoid prolonged sun exposure) and kept constantly moist until they are planted. The plugs will survive in the flats this way for weeks.

The optimal planting season is after the last normal freeze date in the spring up until 30 days before the first freeze. Quickest coverage will occur when the soil temperature is above 70° F. Tech Turf thrives in full sun, down to 50% shade and Shadow Turf thrives in full sun, down to 80% shade. The two grasses blend beautifully in the same lawn.

### **Grass and Weed Eradication**

If your lawn area has any existing grass or weeds, these should be eradicated prior to planting. Many grasses and weeds may be killed with a single dose of organic herbicide or glyphosate (Roundup) when the plants are green and not under stress from cold or drought. For the quick and complete removal of Bermuda or other hard-to-kill grasses, we've only found one consistently reliable method: Let the Bermuda grow up to a height of 3-inches and treat with glyphosate. After waiting 4 days, mow the grass very short and immediately treat again with glyphosate. This will kill Bermuda all the way down through the roots and rhizomes so it does not come back. Wait three to four days before tilling the area and installing Turffalo plugs. After establishment of Turffalo, any invading Bermuda may be killed with Fusilade applied at the lower end of the application rate, and will only 'yellow' Turffalo grass without killing it.

### **Soil Preparation**

After the area has been cleared of grasses and weeds, it is time to prepare the soil. Good quality soil is one of the most important factors for a beautiful lawn. Turffalo grasses will perform well in a variety of soil types. However, we recommend amending sandy or weak soil with a good layer of top soil or compost for the grass to achieve proper coverage. This will also improve turf quality. Soil that is lacking nutrients should be supported with a good organic lawn fertilizer (organics are more balanced and less likely than synthetics to burn the grass). If you are not sure about your soil's specific requirements, your local nursery or county Soil and Water Conservation District can help. Finally, for easier installation and faster coverage, it is very beneficial to till the soil to a soft consistency at a depth of 3-inches or more prior to planting.

### **Planting**

Once the soil has been prepared, planting is simple: just make a 2-inch deep hole in the soil with a plugging tool, soil auger or rod. Drop the plug into the hole so that the top of the root ball is even with the soil, and then step on the plug to seat it in the hole. It is important to make sure that the sides and bottom of the plug's roots make good contact with the surrounding soil.

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Tech Turf plugs planted at a spacing of 12-inches typically achieve full coverage in 30 to 40 days. Planting Tech Turf at a spacing of 17-inches will use half the plugs and take about 60 to 80 days to cover. Shadow Turf spacing should not exceed 12-inches due to much slower coverage, typically one full season. Of course, plugs may be planted closer to speed coverage.

### **Watering Schedule**

After the plugs have been planted, they should be watered heavily the first day and then at least 1/2-inch per day for the first two weeks. Water once per day, preferably in the morning, to avoid excessively cooling the soil. Warm soil temperatures speed coverage time. Sandy soil will require increased daily watering during establishment, as will hot weather conditions. After two weeks of watering daily, cut back watering to once every two or three days until the grass covers. Long term over-watering slows coverage, so a little stress from water reduction will speed coverage as long as it is not excessive. Any curling, paling or browning of the leaves indicates that watering must increase. Shadow Turf especially will not tolerate frequent standing water and may die. Monitor watering carefully and use common sense to help insure successful coverage. Once fully established, watering once per week is typically sufficient.

### **Ongoing Care**

We recommend using a pre-emergent to help keep out weeds during establishment. A good organic pre-emergent is corn gluten meal. The only approved synthetic pre-emergent is dithiopyr. Apply immediately after installing the plugs. Once the turf is fully established, 2-4-D or MSMA herbicides may be used for invading weeds and grasses as long as they do not contain high concentrations of Atrazine, Banvel, Dicamba, Simazine or Trimec. Products approved for buffalograss will work on Tech Turf and products approved for Zoysia grass will work on Shadow Turf. They may 'yellow' the grass some, so use with caution and follow the recommended application rate. Do not spray glyphosate on weeds during winter dormancy, as the grass may not be completely dormant. Grub worm prevention is important with either an annual grub insecticide or the organic alternative of beneficial nematodes.

Well maintained Turffalo brand grass provides a lush, beautiful lawn. Ongoing treatment with organic fertilizer and foliar feed fertilizer is recommended both during and after establishment. Mowing can be started during establishment at a high setting. Remember to *never* cut more than 1/3 of the plant height at one time. In the complete absence of water, established Turffalo grasses will go dormant (same as during winter) and then green up with moisture. If you have questions or would like to share a success story, please visit your local distributor, or contact Turffalo directly. Turffalo grass has proven itself superior in university tests and in thousands of lawns – we know that with proper care it will perform great for you.

**Thank you for using Turffalo to beautify the environment  
and help grow a more sustainable world!**

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*Terms and Conditions: Turffalo guarantees that the grass plugs are propagated from original breeding stock and will arrive in good, healthy condition – ready to be planted. No other guarantee is expressed or implied. Any discrepancy must be reported to Turffalo within two days of receipt. By keeping them past two days, or by planting the plugs, the customer agrees to these terms and conditions and accepts full responsibility for grass health and performance.*

*Tech Turf is protected by PVP (Plant Variety Protection) #200400229 and Shadow Turf is protected by plant patent pending. Neither grass may be replanted or propagated for sale. Other laws and regulations apply.*