



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 a shady 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 will grow in full sun, but ideally in 50 to 80% shade. The two grasses blend beautifully in the same lawn together.

Grass and Weed Eradication

If your lawn area has any existing grass or weeds, those should be eradicated prior to planting plugs. Most grasses and weeds can be killed with a single dose of organic herbicide or glyphosate (Roundup) when the plants are thriving 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 grass 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 should kill the grass 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, which will only "yellow" Turffalo grass without killing it.

Soil Preparation

After eradicating grass and weeds, then prepare the soil. Good quality soil is a crucial factor for a beautiful lawn. Turffalo grasses will perform well in a variety of soil types. However, rocks, gravel and debris should be removed. We also recommend improving sandy or weak soil with a good layer of quality top soil or compost. To determine your soil's specific nutrient excesses or deficiencies, you can contact your local nursery or county Soil & Water Conservation District and run a simple, inexpensive soil analysis. It is much easier to correct soil problems *before* planting a new lawn. Finally, for easier installation and faster coverage, we recommend tilling 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 thick rod. Plugs are typically planted at 12-inch spacing. 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. Shadow Turf plugs are slow growing since they are shade-tolerant and will begin to spread after a couple of months of growing root mass, then often take a full year to cover completely. Tech Turf plugs are much quicker and typically achieve full coverage in 40 days. Performance is strongly influenced by soil quality and watering schedule.

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Water, Pre-emergent and Fertilizer

Planted plugs should be watered heavily the first day and then at least 1/2-inch per day for at least the first two weeks. Water only once per day to avoid excessive cooling of the soil since warm soil temperatures speed coverage time. Sandy soil and/or very hot weather conditions may require increased watering. After two weeks of daily watering, the water may be cut back to once every two days until the grass covers. However, any curling, paling or browning of the leaves likely indicates a need for more water. Long periods of standing water should also be avoided, so monitor carefully and use common sense to help insure successful coverage. Once fully established, water may be cut back further. In the absence of water, established Turffalo grasses will go dormant (the same as during winter) and then green-up with moisture. An application of pre-emergent herbicide is highly recommended immediately after planting to help keep out weeds during establishment – when daily watering encourages weed seed germination. The approved organic pre-emergent is corn gluten meal and the more effective synthetic pre-emergent is active ingredient dithiopyr. Fertilization may begin one week after planting. Ongoing treatment with organic fertilizer (less likely to burn grass than synthetic fertilizer) and foliar feed fertilizer will improve turf quality – especially if the soil is lacking in nutrients. Fair to poor soil may require amendment on a bi-monthly basis for a while and may also benefit from a single heavy dose of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0). Always follow any fertilization with plenty of water.

Mowing and Ongoing Care

Turffalo grasses grow to a maximum height of 4 to 5 inches. Mowing at a high setting can begin one month after planting and may help encourage grass spreading. Never mow more than 1/3 of the grass height at one time and be careful not to scalp. Average maintained height is 2 to 3 inches. Maintaining height below 1 inch is possible, though shorter grass requires more water to keep green. Once the turf is fully established, you may use 2-4-D for broadleaf weeds or quinclorac for grassy weeds. Products approved for buffalograss will work on Tech Turf and products approved for Zoysia grass will work on Shadow Turf. Herbicides may cause some yellowing of the grass, so weeds should be spot-treated. It is advisable to first test any product on a small, secluded patch of the lawn and always follow product labels. Weeds should not be killed with glyphosate during winter, as the grass may not be completely dormant and could be damaged. Grub worms may be treated with an annual insecticide or the organic alternative of beneficial nematodes. During winter, you may keep the grass covered with light mulch, such as leaves or straw, to provide a layer of insulation that may keep the grass beneath it green and even encourage winter growth. Once the mulch is cleared away in the spring, the grass will have a head-start.

Turffalo grasses have proven superior in university tests and in thousands of landscapes – providing lush, beautiful turf. We know that with proper care they will perform great for you.

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

Terms and Conditions: Turffalo guarantees that the grass plugs are propagated from original breeding stock and will arrive in good, healthy condition. No other guarantee is expressed or implied. Any discrepancy must be reported to Turffalo on the day of receipt. If no discrepancy is reported on day of receipt, the customer 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 20,266P2. Neither grass may be replanted or propagated for sale without express written permission from Turffalo. Other laws and regulations apply.