



Alternative to turf rolls

▶ Seeding

Kikuyu and Couch can also be established from seed. Soft Leaf Buffalo cannot because the male plant is sterile. Kikuyu and Couch seed are best sown between the months of Oct - Mar as they will take between 60-90 days to fully establish. For detailed sowing rates contact our friendly staff.

A word of caution, do not combine Couch seed and Couch turf. Most Couch turf varieties are hybrids (and male sterile) and do not mix well with the grass from common Couch seed. Kikuyu seed and Kikuyu turf is less of a concern as the appearance, texture and growth characteristics are more similar.

▶ Sprigging

Soft Leaf Buffalo, Kikuyu and Couch may all be established via sprigging. This process is more economical than turf as it requires less planting stock. Typically the home owner buys the turf as a roll then breaks it up into pieces (sprigs) and plugs the area to be planted. It is important that the sprigs have good soil contact and protection to ensure they have an opportunity to shoot a root from the node of the sprigs. As with seed watering of the sprigs is critical to ensure they remain moist whilst establishing a root system.



✔ Select a turf variety

What are warm seasons grasses?

What are Warm Seasons Grasses?

Warm Seasons Grasses are best defined as grasses that grow actively in the warmest months of the year and whose growth slows to dormancy in the coolest months of the year. Dormancy is commonly associated with a fall in green leaf colour.

Warm Seasons Grasses are easily identified by their runners and their capacity to form deep root systems which guarantee superior drought tolerance as well as a very hardy, self repairing lawn.

Varieties include Soft Leaf Buffalo, Kikuyu grass and Couch grass.

What to Expect!

Warm Seasons Grass varieties can look very different to Cool Seasons Grass varieties (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass and Fine Leaf Ryegrass) which have traditionally been sold in Victoria. Buffalo and Kikuyu for example produce a coarse, thick runner, while couch has a very fine runner. A Warm Seasons Grass lawn can be maintained to a very high standard, typical of a sports field or golf course, or it can be maintained with very few inputs. Maintenance will be required during the warmest months of the year when the lawn is most active (mowing etc).

When do you Lay Warm Seasons Grasses?

When they are actively growing, typically between the months of Oct-Apr. Summer will allow the Warm Seasons Grasses to establish fully and strengthen prior to winter dormancy. Warm Seasons Grasses thrive in air temperatures from 25°C to 38°C and they cease growth when minimum air temperatures fall below 10°C. Frosts will quickly cool both air and soil temperatures and in so doing retard growth. In dormancy a Warm Seasons Grass is unlikely to recover from damage. Hence caution must be exercised when installing a Warm Seasons Grass during dormancy or for that matter either side of dormancy, especially in autumn because dormancy may come early!

Kikuyu and Couch are generally not offered for sale during the winter months of Jun-Aug (unless they have been, or will be, over sown with winter active ryegrass).

Kikuyu and Couch can be over sown with Ryegrass to improve colour and activity during the cooler months of dormancy. Sports fields regularly undertake this practice, over seeding the ryegrass in the autumn and renovating the ryegrass out in the spring. The Ryegrass will protect the underlying Warm Seasons Grass from damage. The Ryegrass will stress in the warmer months unless watered. The underlying drought tolerant Warm Seasons Grass will therefore persist better in the warmer months. Low mowing will also encourage the Warm Seasons Grass to out compete the Ryegrass as it will stress and expose the underlying warm Seasons Grass to sunlight.

Soft Leaf Buffalo is offered for sale year-round however customers must understand that establishment during the winter months is not ideal and carries a certain degree of risk. The risks and challenges encountered will include.

- *The grass will be very slow to establish a new root system*
- *The grass will deteriorate without direct sunlight*
- *The grass will deteriorate if kept saturated*
- *The grass is dormant, it will not be active and will lack green colour*
- *The grass will not sustain or recover from repeated use*
- *The grass will become active when air and soil temperatures rise*
- *Your Buffalo lawn should be top-dressed at the time of installation.*

We do not recommend the over seeding of Soft Leaf Buffalo as it may sustain some damage. Unlike Kikuyu and Couch, Soft Leaf Buffalo does not have the hardiness and reserves to fully out-compete the Ryegrass.