



THE ULTIMATE LAWN GUIDE



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Benefits of Lawn

A fresh, green patch of lawn outside your home is an attractive feature for potential homebuyers increasing your property value, whilst adding community appeal. It is widely known in real estate circles that one of the most cost-effective ways to boost a home's curb appeal is by attractively landscaping the yard.

If you are undecided on whether going green is the best option for your yard, here are some of the benefits of lawn to think about.

Cost Effective

It is a common misconception that lawn is an expensive upgrade. When we compare the initial outlay involved with its alternatives such as artificial turf and paving, the cost of installing lawn is significantly lower. When the area you have to cover is large, lawn is definitely the more affordable option.

Increased Property Value

Ask anyone in the real estate industry and they'll all agree that a home with a lush green lawn is a draw card for property buyers. Laying turf adds to the value of a home, whether it is due to the way it offers people a cool place to relax on a hot day or simply due to its beauty. A recent survey revealed homebuyers pay up to 19 per cent more for a house with lawn. Now that's a significant benefit.

Improves Air Quality

Lawn absorbs greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and converts them into oxygen, which is necessary to sustain human, plant, and animal life. Because grass has a higher leaf density and faster growth rate than native plants, it is much more effective at reducing CO₂ emissions.

Lawn improves air quality by filtering out minuscule particles of dirt and dust that would otherwise drift in the air. The grass blades also trap smoke and other air pollutants which could lead to irritated eyes, breathing difficulties, and allergies if left to float around.

Fosters Soil Health

A healthy lawn makes everything around it better. Grass clippings and grassroots eventually decay and feed the topsoil. Healthy grass produces oxygen and organic materials for living things like earthworms, ants, and grubs. It also creates a hospitable environment for necessary organisms like fungi, bacteria, and microbes that are all part of a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

Turf Varieties

Once you've decided that installing a green lawn is best option for your garden revamp, the next step is to choose the right one for you. When choosing the right lawn, remember that not all varieties were made equal which means that there are a few things to consider including climate, use, soil type, water and maintenance levels. Here are the different types of turf and their different characteristics.

Sir Walter Buffalo



There are so many reasons why Sir Walter is Australia's No. 1 buffalo grass. Sir Walter Buffalo Lawn has stood the test of time, proving time and time again that it will go anywhere and grow anywhere. It is versatile and hardy, many factors which cause most other lawns a problem are not a problem for Sir Walter.

- Up to 75% shade tolerant: no trouble establishing and thriving in high shade areas
- Hard wearing: highly resistant to frequent wear from people, pets and furniture
- Drought resistant: require less watering than other turf varieties
- Low maintenance: holds out weeds and quickly self repairs if damaged
- Non-invasive: it won't grow where it should, so you can save time maintaining your hard
- Low allergenic: great for pets and kids

Eureka Kikuyu



Eureka Kikuyu is a vigorous grower that stands up to a wide range of conditions. Good for both home lawns and larger spaces such as racecourses or parks.

- All Rounder: medium course bright green leaves, which is maintained year round in warm climates. In cold climates, growth and colour is maintained well into autumn and early winter
- High Wear Areas: its vigorous growth habit allows it repair very quickly if damaged
- Versatile: great solution for planting out larger areas and erosion control, given the rapid spread of its runners in favourable conditions. Its tolerance of waterlogged soils can also make it the best choice for transpiration areas
- Moderately Drought Tolerant: sensitive to drought but does have a rapid recovery rate
- Poor Shade Adaptation: poor tolerance to shade and can become quite thin
- Moderately Water Resistant: fast growth pattern and generally recovers quickly from damage and wear

Nullabor Couch



The perfect choice for work, rest and play, it produces a manicured lawn with an attractive luscious green colour and fine leaf blades.

- Requires 5-6 hours of sunlight per day
- High Maintenance: requires fertiliser 2-3 times per year, will need to be mowed every 5-7 days during summer. Will require annual top dressing.
- Excellent heat tolerance: performs best during periods of heat
- Highly drought tolerant
- Poor shade adaption: requires full sun for most of the day

Rhizomatous Tall Fescue Grass (RTF)



A self-repairing grass that produces a thick, even, soft lawn and thrives in cold climate regions. RTF Fescue also features a leaf texture distinct from normal tall fescue varieties, being much softer to touch, gentle even on bare feet.

- Self-Repairing
- Heat Tolerance: RTF Fescue is one of the deepest rooting cool season grasses available, with roots travel down to 2 metres tapping into water normally not available
- Moderately drought tolerant
- Shade Tolerant: requires moderate sunny periods, full sun for optimum performance

Turf Comparison Table

	SIR WALTER BUFFALO	EUREKA KIKUYU	NULLABOR COUCH	RTF
Shade Tolerant	Very High	Very Low	Very Low	Medium
Wear Resistance	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Water Requirements	Low	High	Medium	Very High
Maintenance	Low	High	Medium	Very High
Fertilising Needs	Medium	Medium	High	Very High
Weed Resistance	High	Medium	Low	Low
Disease Resistance	Very High	Medium	Medium	Low
Heat Resistance	High	Medium	High	Medium
Pest Resistance	High	Low	Low	Low
Average Performance	High	Low	Medium	Low

Time to Install

You've ordered your turf and soil and now all that's left to do is to lay your freshly delivered turf. Turf installation isn't as hard as you think, it's a fairly straightforward and easy task if you follow these steps below. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Step 1: Preparation



Tools Required

- Rotary Hoe
- Screed Level
- Lawn Mix
- Lawn Starter Fertiliser
- Stanley Knife
- Premium Washed Sand
- Rake
- Shovel
- Hose

- Remove stones and lumps of organic matter as these can inhibit root growth especially during the establishment phase

- Test your soil and remediate if required

Sandy Soils - may dry out quickly due to their open, free draining structure. Add Soil Improver and a soil with some clay content which will improve the nutrient levels and help with the water holding capacity.

Clay Soils - hold water and nutrients very well but doesn't drain as well as sandy soils, especially if compacted. Adding Soil Improver and Gypsum and then cultivating to mix these through the soil will work wonders

Acidic Soils - If your PH is below 6.0 then you need to raise the PH to a more optimum level. Cultivate your soil with some Lime as it will neutralise acidic soils.

- Rotary hoe or spread Lawn Mix to a depth of 100-150mm
- Level to 10mm below pathways and rake and even surface (25mm below paths for Sir Walter Buffalo, Village Green and Kikuyu). Start levelling out your soil around the outer edges where the finished product is determined. Once the outer edges are done use string lines and long straight edges to start marrying all the level together
- Spread the lawn starter fertiliser

TIP: If you are planning on installing a sprinkler system, install it after the soil preparation at the desired height.

Step 2: Laying Turf

- Your lawn will be delivered in either rolls or slabs depending on the variety. Its best to have your turf delivered the on the day you intend to lay it, so it best to have all your preparation done beforehand.
- Lightly water the prepared area
- Roll out your instant lawn in a brick work pattern. This prevents drying out and soil erosion caused by heavy rain on slopping ground
- Push individual strips together firmly - do not stretch or overlap
- Cut turf with a Stanley Knife around plants and paths
- Water immediately to saturate the grass mat ensuring the soil is wet
- Roll your lawn once you have it watered to ensure root contact with the soil
- Sir Walter Buffalo has a slightly uneven edge when harvested. After laying it is recommended that you top dress the joins with approximately 10mm of washed sand - you will require 0.5m³ for lawn area of 100m²



Step 3: Establishment

- Watering - water your lawn following installation and then as often as required to keep your lawn moist for the first 2 weeks. Up to 4 times a day (early am, Mid/late morning, late afternoon and early pm) if required in peak hot periods. Do not allow the turf the dry out whilst establishing. Gradually reduce the frequency as the roots establish
- Mowing - first mowing at 2-3 weeks after laying with the mower on the highest setting
- Fertilising - fertilise 4 weeks after laying with complete lawn food

TIP: Lift a corner of the roll or slab, if it doesn't lift a easily, the roots have set into the soil



Lawn Maintenance

SUMMER

Mow - Never mow more than 1/3 off the leaf in any angle. Keeping the length on the leaf shades the soil, keeps it cooler and much less exposed for evaporation.

Fertilise - Applying fertilising early in summer is highly recommended to boost your lawn. Apply the fertiliser at the recommended rate, but in one section of the lawn roughly 1m x 1m, apply twice the amount. If in a few weeks time this area has better colour and performing a lot better than the rest of your lawn, fertilise again. Sometimes, your lawn needs an extra boost.

Water - Watering for at least 1hr per week should be sufficient to stand up even the hottest summer month (some varieties will require more). By watering infrequently and deeply you'll be encouraging stronger, deeper root growth which will increase its drought tolerance.

For watering to be the most efficient, you can apply a wetting agent to increase your soil's water absorbency especially on sandy soils.

WINTER

Water - You shouldn't need to water your lawn too much during the winter months. Switch off the timer and water as needed. You'll know if your lawn is dry as leaves will curl in which case give it a drink. Don't put too much excess moisture into the soil if you can avoid it, it will only encourage compaction.

Mow - Give the mower a well deserved break and keep a little extra length on. Leaving your lawn on the long side will mean there is extra leaf for photosynthesis which will keep your lawn healthier.

Compaction - If you have a bit of wet weather, it is best to avoid traffic on the lawn when possible or regularly aerate any areas which cannot be avoided. The same applies after heavy rains particularly if water tends to pool or the soil gets waterlogged.

AUTUMN

Fertilise - As it's still relatively warm your lawn is still actively growing which makes Autumn the ideal time to fertilise. By fertilising it will encourage strong root development, winter colour and overall health. You'll want your lawn to be winter ready by March/April, any later the ground temperature will drop too low.

The best fertiliser to use is a slow release fertiliser, if you need help deciding on the best fertiliser please feel free to give us a call.

Lawn Grubs - Keep an eye for Lawn Grubs as they will be coming. These annoying pests are extremely active late in summer and throughout autumn. Treat them straight away to minimise the damage to your lawn. If you have an infestation fertilise straight away.

Lawn Compaction - Grab the pitch fork and loosen up the soil. When soil becomes compacted the roots aren't able to breathe and this will cause the lawn to thin out and die. If you have clay soil, an application of lime and gypsum would be beneficial.

Mow - You can now start reducing the frequency of mowing. Leaving a bit more length at this time of year will mean your lawn is better equipped for photosynthesis and weed suppression.

SPRING

Lawn Mower Tune - Some basic maintenance will go a long way here, by changing the fuel, oil and the spark plug you will have the machine running smoothly for many years.

Weed - You are guaranteed to have developed some weeds over winter. Most are blown in and some may have been lying dormant. Most single weeds can be simply removed by hand, other flat weeds and grasses can be mown over. A healthy lawn will be able to choke out most weeds.

Aerate - This should be done annually to increase the amount of air, water and nutrients getting into the soil and decrease thatch and compaction.

Fertilise - Do not get carried away here, it must be light. You want to be rid of those weeds first before feeding them as well and overfeeding at this time of year may not produce desired results with the warmth and light intensity not quite there yet.

Water - Start training your lawn to be less-dependent on being frequently-watered. A minimalist approach to watering will often be rewarded with a healthier lawn, with stronger, deeper roots heading towards the extremes of summer.

Lawn Care Calendar

January / February

Mow regularly during summer. 20-25mm or higher if dry and keep edges trimmed.

April / May

Decrease the frequency of mowing and start raising the cutting height to 25mm. If any diseases are spotted, treat with a fungicide.

June / July

Regular mowing stops this month, and the cutting height should be raised to a minimum of 25 – 30mm for the last cut or two. Lawn repairs can also be undertaken over these months. Rake away fallen leaves and worm casts with a light rake.

August / September

Start lawn maintenance. Before giving the lawn its first cut, rake it lightly to remove surface rubbish. Rake thoroughly with a spring rake so that the grass and weeds are set up to meet the mower blades. Never mow more than one third at any time.

October / November

Give the lawn its spring feed and start weed control. Increase frequency of mowing as necessary. This is the best month for weed control when the grass is dry but the soil moist. Water thoroughly if drought is apparent.

November / December

Mowing the lawn twice a week may be necessary if the soil is moist. If on the other hand there is a long dry spell, raise the height of the cut (25-30mm) and mow once a week or less. If weeds remain after initial treatment, repeat the process although not during a long dry spell.



Developed in conjunction with

