

# TURFGRASSES

## Recommended for New Hanover County Landscapes

Listed in order from low to high maintenance

All of the below are warm season grasses. Warm season grasses are well adapted to areas with hot summers and mild winters. They actively grow during spring, summer and fall and are dormant during winter. The best time to sow seed for these grasses is from spring to early summer (March/April – July). Plugs, springs and sod establish best when planted in spring or summer (March – July).

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Recommended Varieties	Shade Tolerance	Propagation	Rate of Establishment	Fertilizer (lbs of Nitrogen/ 1,000 sq. ft./yr)	Mowing Frequency	Mowing Height
Centipede	<i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>	1,2,3	Common 'TifBlair'	Moderate	Seed for common, Plugs, Sod for both	Slow	0.5	Low	1"
St. Augustine	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	1,2	'Raleigh' 'Mercedes' 'Palmetto'	Very Good	Plugs, Sod	Moderate	2 to 3	Medium-high	2" to 3"
Zoysia	<i>Zoysia</i> hybrids	1,2,3	'Emerald' 'Meyer' 'El Toro' 'Zenith' 'Crowne' 'Empire' 'GN-Z'	Good	Only 'Zenith' can be grown from seed. All other varieties must be established by sprigs, plugs, or sod.	Very Slow to Moderate depending on variety	2 to 4 depending on variety	Low-medium	0.75" to 1.5" depending on variety
Common Bermuda	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	1,2,3	'Princess' 'Jack Pot'	Very Poor	Seed. Springs, Plugs, Sod	Fast	4.5	Medium-high	1.0" to 1.5"
Hybrid Bermuda	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> hybrids	1,2,3	'Tifway' 'Tifsport' 'Vamont' 'GN-1' 'Celebration' 'Tifton-10'	Very Poor	Springs, Plugs, Sod	Moderate	5 to 6	Very high	0.75" to 1.5"

## Water Use Zones

Water Use Zones indicate the water needs of various plants and correspond to the following NCCE publications:

- **Water Wise Use in Landscaping** [http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508\\_1.html](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_1.html)
- **How to Plan and Design a Water Wise Use Landscape** [http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508\\_2.html](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_2.html)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION . . . .

For complete information on turf selection and maintenance, refer to the following NC Cooperative Extension publications, available from the NHC Cooperative Extension Plant Information Clinic and online:

- **Carolina Lawns** – Extensive information on lawn selection, establishment and care  
<http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/management/ag69.html>
- **Organic Lawn Care** <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/PUBS/MANAGEMENT/LAWNS2.PDF>
- **Turf Maintenance Calendars** – season by season guide to caring for each type of turfgrass
  - **Bermudagrass** <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/management/ag431.html>
  - **Centipedegrass** <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/management/ag381.html>
  - **St. Augustinegrass** <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/PUBS/MANAGEMENT/AG-540.PDF>
  - **Zoysiagrass** <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/management/ag432.html>

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