

Turf Tips

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Urban Agriculture?

Urban Agriculture is the creation, growth, introduction and management of constructed landscapes designed to support and enhance natural environmental systems and a sustainable quality of life through mitigation of land altering activity.

-The Georgia Urban Agriculture Council

Turf has:

- **Landscape Ornamental Benefit**
- **Recreational Use Benefit** - Footing, surface characteristics and resiliency for safety
- **Functional Benefit** Soil erosion control (protects soil resource), Dust stabilization, Heat Dissipation, Noise abatement, Glare reduction, Reduced runoff loss of precipitation, Higher groundwater recharge Increased degradation of organic chemicals, Safety in vehicle operation, Facilitates security for key installations, Reduced fire hazard, Reduced problems with pests (insects, snakes, rodents), Economic importance



Turfgrass Management

Often a complex subject for the home consumer!

- Your turf has is not looking too good!
- Could you correctly diagnose the problem?
- Could it be a pest or some other problem?
- Can you figure it out?
- If it was a pest could you treat to prevent?
- What are your options in how to go about it?
- Can you get this done in a timely manner?
- What information do you need?



Common Reasons for Poor Turf Quality

- Species and/or variety not adapted
- Improper establishment
- Mismanagement
- Lack of cultivation (thatch & soil)
- Pests
- Mistakes in pesticide use
- Excessive use/traffic

Controls of Turf Quality

■ Inherited Characteristics (**Species/cultivar**)

- pests (disease, insects, nematodes)
- wear tolerance & recuperative potential
- environment (heat, cold, drought, shade, salinity)

■ Surrounding environment

- soil
- microenvironment (shade, light, temperature, drainage)
- use (seasons and amount)
- intensity of culture (water, nutrients, soil aeration, thatch control, traffic)

Root:Shoot Ratio - Want good roots!

Conditions extreme reduce rooting!

Influenced by:

- ❑ High temperatures
- ❑ Close cutting
- ❑ Excessive nitrogen
- ❑ Low light
- ❑ Compaction (less oxygen/mech. resistance)
- ❑ Soil: depth, poor soil mixture
- ❑ Excess soil moisture (irrigation/drainage)
- ❑ Pests (insects, nematodes, root fungi)