



PENSACOLA BAHIAGRASS ***(Paspalum notatum)***

Bahiagrass is a warm season, dense, tufted perennial bunchgrass that grows from 25 to 75 cm tall. It has long hairy leaves that are 1 cm wide, and can reproduce by seeds or runners. It forms a dense sod, and is adapted to a wide range of soils. Bahiagrass can be used for turf, forage and reclamation purposes. It has good drought resistance, and can tolerate light frost. It has a uniform medium green color, has good disease resistance, and good wear tolerance for turf applications.

Pensacola Bahiagrass can also be used for pastures and hay production. It is an ecotype of common bahia found near Pensacola, FL adapted to sandy soils of the Southern Coastal Plains tolerating droughty soils with low pH and fertility. It is leafier, more palatable and higher yielding than common bahiagrass. Plant after danger of frost at 10 to 15 pounds per acres on a well prepared, firm seed bed no more than ¼ inch deep. Pensacola tolerates low fertility and acid soil conditions but responds to nitrogen and potassium. Pensacola endures close continuous grazing as early as 90 days after the seedlings emerge. Graze closely in late summer to keep vegetation tender and nutritious.

It can also be used as a turf grass as a substitute to Bermuda grass in lower maintenance conditions. All varieties require frequent mowing to establish a dense sod and keep weeds from seeding. After the Bahia has tillered sufficiently it will usually crowd out weeds. Early spring mowing and some fertilization can help Bahia accomplish this task before weeds have a chance to get started. Herbicides can be applied following the guidelines on the various products. Pensacola has long, slim (narrow) leaves with an extensive root system that grows to depths of 7-10 feet. Pensacola also has more cold-tolerance than the other Bahia's, thus it can be grown further North toward and in the transition zone. Top growth is usually killed by "mild frost", but it recovers fast with warm weather. In colder areas the Pensacola variety produces more early and late season forage growth than the other Bahia varieties

Characteristics:

- Medium Green Color
- Good Disease Resistance
- Reasonably Fine Texture
- Good Drought tolerance
- Excellent Heat tolerance
- Good wear tolerance
- Can be used for turf or forage

Establishment and Maintenance:

Plant in spring or summer when soil temperatures are consistently above 18° C and no danger of frost is anticipated. For best results, take a soil sample and follow recommendations prior to planting. Plant in full sun on well-drained soil. Care must be taken not to cover the seed with too much soil: no more than 6 mm covering the seed is advised. After seeding, maintain soil moisture in the root zone for at least 1 to 2 weeks. Under ideal conditions, germination may begin within 7 to 10 days; allow 14 to 21 days for full germination. Full coverage may be attained in 45 to 60 days. Recommended mowing height is 12 to 50 mm.

Seeding Rates:

- 4 kgs per 100 square metres