

Bahia Grass Seed

Bahia Grass Seed - Bahia grass seed varieties are the most used grasses in the southern climate for lawn grass, pasture grass and erosion control grass seed applications. Bahia grass seed varieties are well adapted to sandy soil conditions and provide excellent drought and insect resistance. Bahia grass seed varieties are very common for replacing high maintenance lawn grass varieties such as St. Augustine, floritam, 419 bermuda and many others. Bahia grass seed varieties produce the most economical lawn grass available for the southern climates.

Bahia Grass Seed - Bahia grass is a warm-season perennial grass. Bahia grass is grown throughout Florida and in the Coastal Plain and Gulf Coast regions of the southern United States. Bahia grass is adapted to climatic conditions throughout the Southeast and can be grown on upland well-drained sands as well as the moist, poorly-drained flatwoods soils of the southern climates. In Florida, bahia grass is used on more land area than any other single pasture species, covering an estimated 2.5 million acres. Most of this acreage is used for grazing with some hay, sod, and seed harvested from pastures. Our Bahia Grass Seed is Grown, Harvested, Processed and Distributed by Hancock Seed Company direct to the public.

Bahia Grass Adaptation

Bahia grass is drought resistant lawn grass. Bahia grass does well in lawns, pastures and along highways, and its best used in sunny areas in warm humid regions. Its roots extend to 8 feet deep. In Florida, bahia grass varieties survive in areas with no irrigation. It can also be ruined by excess watering, when none is required, and by excess fertilization. Bahiagrass normally goes semidormant during winter, yet people sometimes fertilize and water it to keep it green in winter, and thereby encourage weed populations. There are no postemergence herbicides for grassy weeds in bahiagrass, which is a problem. Most weed problems in bahiagrass could be avoided by proper seed establishment and timely mowing.

Bahia Grass for Lawn Use:

The Argentine variety of bahia grass is superior to Pensacola for use as a lawn grass in the South. Argentine bahia grass has a more abundant root system and is lower growing than Pensacola Bahia grass. Unfortunately, Argentine Bahia grass winterkills more readily than Pensacola and should be overseeded with annual rye earlier in the fall. For lawn purposes, seed should be planted in the spring at about 10 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. in clean seedbeds, incorporated 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep (6 to 12 mm) deep, and pressed in. Watering your seeded area should be applied every evening until the seedbed in moist but not saturated.

Bahia Grass Advantages - Bahia grass forms an extensive root system, which makes it one of our most drought tolerant grasses available. Bahia grasses performs well in infertile, sandy soils and does not require high inputs of fertilizers. Bahia grasses does not form excessive thatch. It may be grown from seed, which is abundant and relatively cheap. Bahia grasses have relatively few disease problems, and mole crickets are the only primary insect problem.

Bahia Grass Disadvantages - The Pensacola Bahia grass varieties display an open growth habit, which can result in encroachment of weeds into sparse areas of a lawn or pasture. Bahia grass has a coarse leaf texture and provides less cushioning for recreational activities than some other species.

Bahia Grass Seed Varieties

There are four cultivars of bahia grass available for home lawn, pasture or utility use. These may all be easily established by seed.

Argentine Bahia Grass Seed - Argentine Bahia Grass Seed is the best lawn and pasture grass seed available in our opinion for Southern Climates. Argentine Bahia grass makes an excellent low maintenance permanent lawn and pasture grass. Argentine Bahiagrass is very drought tolerant, deep rooted and provides natural insect and disease resistance. Argentine bahiagrass makes excellent pasture for horses or cattle. Argentine bahia grass produces a problem free lawn or pasture if properly maintained. Argentine bahia grass doesn't require much water to survive and flourish thus providing an excellent low input lawn grass. After establishment, Argentine Bahia grass will survive with little to no maintenance.

Pensacola Bahia Grass Seed - Pensacola Bahia Grass Seed is used for lawn and pasture applications in the southern climates. Pensacola Bahia grass is commonly used for lawns, pastures and roadside applications from North Carolina to California. Pensacola Bahia grass is excellent for sandy soils that many other grasses struggle. Pensacola Bahia grass seed is harvested, processed and distributed from Hancock Seed Company insuring the highest quality Pensacola Bahia grass seed.

Tifton 9 Bahiagrass Seed - Tifton 9 Bahia grass is considered a very durable pasture grass for horses. Tifton 9 bahia grass grows faster than regular Pensacola Bahiagrass. Tifton 9 bahia grass has good drought tolerance, some frost resistance and high forage production. Tifton-9 Bahiagrass is an improved Pensacola Bahia grass variety that was bred and developed by Dr. Glen Burton, Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A., and the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. It has several improved characteristics. Tifton-9 Bahia produces 30 to 40% more forage per year than the old Pensacola variety from which it was developed. Tifton 9 Bahia grass has great frost recovery which promotes early summer grazing and hay production. Tifton 9 bahia grass is a favorite of many cattle and horse farms in the southern climates.

TifQuik Bahia Grass Seed - TifQuik Bahia Grass Seed is a newly release improved variety of Bahia Grass Seed. TifQuik doesn't contain as many hard seeds or dormant seeds providing "quick" establishment. TifQuik Bahia greens up in the spring faster than Tifton 9 Bahiagrass or Pensacola Bahiagrass providing early grazing, increased pasture forage and hay production. TifQuik Should be planted at 20-40 lbs. per acre in the early to mid spring. TifQuik germinates faster than Tifton 9 or Pensacola due to it's low dormant and hard seed content. TifQuik has shown to germinate in soil temps as low as 55 degrees making it very useful in early spring planting.

Riata Bahia Grass Seed – Developed at University of Florida UF-Riata has a lower Photoperiod sensitivity, improved leaf tissue cold tolerance, and increased forage production during the cool season compared to the standard bahiagrass cultivars of Argentine bahiagrass and Pensacola bahiagrass.

Watering Bahia Grass Lawns - Irrigating as needed is the best way to water any established, mature grass, as long as the proper amount of water is applied when needed. Irrigation is needed when leaf blades begin to fold up, wilt, or turn blue-gray in color, or when footprints remain visible after walking on the grass. Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water per application. This will apply water to roughly the top 8 inches of soil, where the majority of the roots are. To determine the amount of irrigation supplied by a sprinkler system, place several coffee cans throughout the irrigation zones to find out how long it takes to apply the recommended amount of water. During prolonged droughts, irrigation may be needed more often. Bahia grass has the best drought tolerance of all lawng rasses grown in Florida and will usually recover from severe drought injury soon after rain or irrigation. It is very important not to overwater Bahia grass lawns as this weakens the turf and encourages weeds. During extended periods of drought, bahia grass may go dormant if left without irrigation. The grass will turn brown and stop growing during this dormant period, but will revive and resume growth upon regular application of water. Refer to the Edis publication LH025 , "Watering Your Florida Lawn," for additional information.

Weed Control in Bahia Grass - The best method of weed control in bahia grass is to maintain a healthy, vigorous well

maintained lawn, pasture or turf. Following UF/IFAS recommendations for fertility, irrigation, and mowing will ensure a healthy lawn that is able to out-compete most weeds. Nevertheless, the following chemical treatments may be used on bahia grass for weed control when needed. Preemergence herbicides are used before a weed germinates and grows. Preemergence chemicals inhibit germination or form a barrier at the soil line to inhibit weed growth after germination. To effectively use preemergence chemicals, knowledge of weed problems from the previous year is needed. To control areas where crabgrass, sandbur, annual bluegrass, goosegrass, or crowfootgrass have been problems in previous years, apply benefin, bensulide, prodiamine, dithiopyr, pendimethalin, oryzalin, or dacthal prior to their germination. Timing of application is important for successful control. As a general rule of thumb, apply February 1 in South Florida, February 15 in Central Florida, and March 1 in North Florida.

Note: Many popular "weed-n-feed" type fertilizers for home lawns contain the herbicide atrazine. Atrazine will result in some damage to bahiagrass; therefore, it is not recommended for use on this grass.

Insects in Bahia Grass -The most serious insect threat to bahiagrass is the mole cricket. These insects burrow through the soil and damage roots, causing rapid wilting of the grass. Check for mole crickets by: (1) looking for their tunneling and mounds; or (2) applying 2 gallons of water with 1 to 2 ounces of detergent soap per 2 square feet of turf in suspected damaged areas. If present, the mole crickets will surface in a few minutes.

Recently, several bait-type insecticides have been introduced and show real promise as a control measure. However, insecticides available for mole crickets are constantly changing. Check with your county Cooperative Extension Service office for the latest control recommendations.

Diseases in Bahia Grass - The only serious disease of bahiagrass is dollar spot. This is expressed as spots several inches in diameter scattered across the turf. A light application of nitrogen ($\frac{1}{2}$ pound nitrogen per 1000 square feet) should encourage the grass to outgrow these symptoms. If nitrogen application does not provide satisfactory results, refer to the Edis publication LH045 , "Dollar Spot," for more information.

Nematodes in Bahia Grass - Nematodes are not typically as damaging to bahiagrass as to other species. Because of bahiagrass's deep, extensive root system, nematode damage seldom becomes noticeable. However, if grass becomes thin, grows less vigorously, and develops a weak root system, nematode presence should be suspected. Take a representative soil sample to your county Cooperative Extension Service office to be analyzed, and if nematodes are found, ask for control recommendations. Proper cultural factors to encourage bahiagrass root growth will lessen nematode stress. These include applying less nitrogen, providing less frequent but deep watering, and ensuring ample soil potassium and phosphorus. Please refer to the Edis publication NG039 , "Nematode Management in Florida Lawns," for additional information.

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