

what is HABITURF®?

Texas born and bred, Habiturf® is the ideal solution to the extreme weather conditions of the Southwest. This native turfgrass was developed through years of research by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin to provide the best performance in arid conditions. The resulting mix is available from Douglass King Company [www.dkseeds.com].



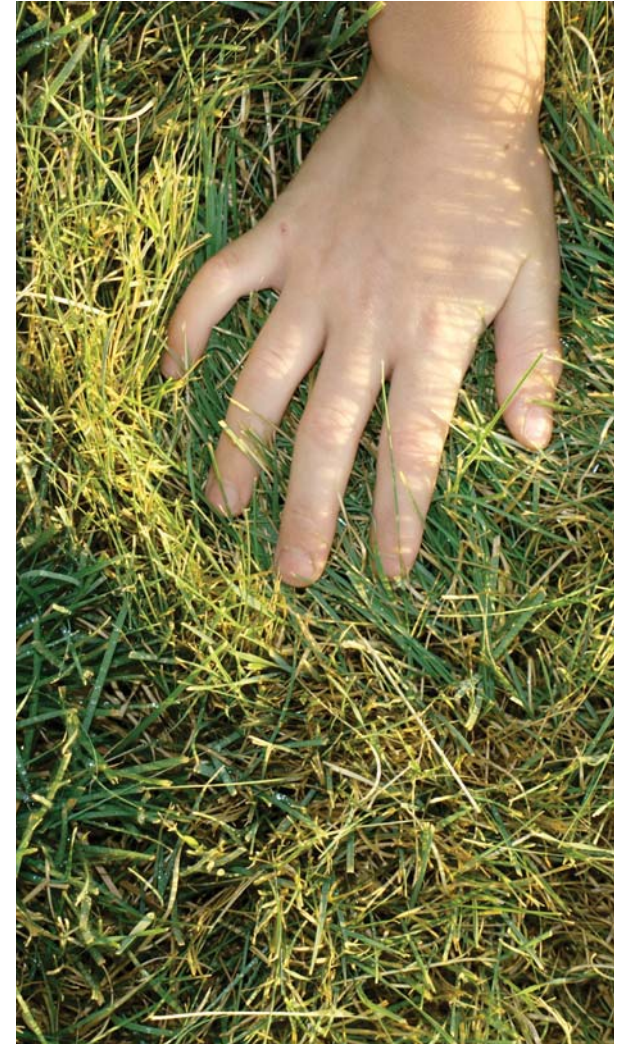
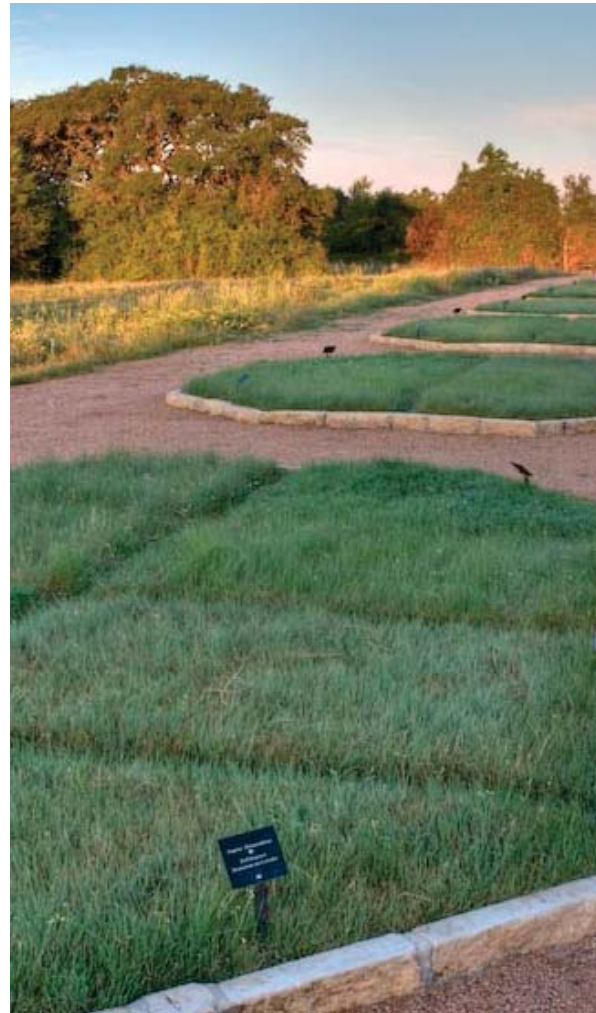
Habiturf® mowed short for a formal effect in a residential front yard.
Photo credit John Clapp



Habiturf® mowed at a longer setting is neat, soft and dense

Habiturf® is dense and attractive, soft to the touch and comfy on bare feet. It establishes quickly and, best of all, conserves precious resources once established. Our research shows it compares favorably to commonly-used non-native turfgrass species in its ability to thrive with minimal watering.

Researchers at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center compared characteristics of Habiturf® and common bermudagrass



HABITURF®
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THE ECOLOGICAL LAWN

A turf of native grass species that grows in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona that requires less water and mowing, and provides habitat for many different species of butterflies.



the mix

Habiturf® is a mix of buffalograss, blue grama and curly-mesquite. It needs less mowing and watering and replicates nature's shortgrass prairies. Although the species are different, these grasses have almost identically shaped leaves and color and produce a great-looking, even-textured, dense lawn for well drained sites with full sun where the grass gets at least 6 hours of direct sunlight.



Bouteloua dactyloides
buffalograss



Bouteloua gracilis
blue grama



Hilaria belangeri
curly-mesquite

+ +
= HABITURF®



getting started

Before you get started, here are a few things you definitely need to know. Habiturf®:

- Requires a minimum of 6 hours of full sun during the growing season.
- Requires less water to maintain, but needs water to get established.
- Will need thorough and consistent weeding to get things started.
- Requires 6 inches of non-compacted, very well-drained soil.
- Is not suitable for high foot traffic areas – but fine for most lawns.
- Is LOW maintenance – it is not NO maintenance.

soil

A well-textured, very well-drained soil is essential for the establishment of deep roots and the long-term success of your Habiturf® lawn.

- Rip, till or disk your soil to at least 8 inches (the deeper the better).
- Incorporate 1/2 inch of living compost with a low nitrogen and low phosphorus content into the top 3 inches of your prepared soil.
- DO NOT use tree bark, wood shavings or mulch, as grass will not grow in this.
- The soil surface should be finished to a fine granular texture and free from large stones.

sowing

- For every 1,000 square feet of lawn area, you will need three to four pounds of seed.
- Spring is the best sowing time once soil temperatures warm up (day time temperatures constantly above 85°F).
- Cast seed by hand or with a hand-cranked seed broadcaster.
- Rake seed into soil and press with your feet or garden roller to ensure good contact.
- Avoid sowing in late fall and winter (October through mid-March).

irrigation + weeding

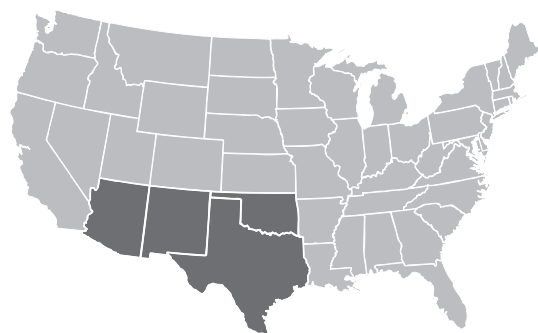
- After sowing with Habiturf® seed, the lawn area should be irrigated daily for the first 10 days, or under very hot, dry or windy conditions, for the first 15 days.
- Then, for the next month, it will need two soil-wetting (top 4 inches of soil) events per week.
- Then, for the remainder of the growing season (March - November), it will need two soil-wetting (top 6 inches of soil) events per month.
- In prolonged drought (say over 6 weeks in summer with no rain) irrigate (if allowed) once every 5 to 6 weeks. This will not trigger “green-up” but will keep the dormant turf alive.
- Remove weeds as they appear, before they become too established and go to seed.

mowing

- Mow only in the growing season, no later than mid-October.
- A 4-inch cut produces attractive, dense turf that resists weeds and light to moderate foot traffic.
- A 3-inch cut or less will damage your lawn's health and will encourage weed invasion.
- Not mowing at all during the growing season will produce a longer turf (8 inches or so) with lower density. This may be acceptable depending on how you use your lawn.
- Allowing the grass to seed out once a year will help insure against drought, heavy foot traffic and weeds.
- After mowing remove half of the thatch produced that could shade out grass seed.

feeding

- As with non-native lawns, make sure adequate nitrogen is added during establishment – any sign of chlorosis (yellowing) or weak plants should be dealt with as soon as possible.
- A healthy soil with live compost plus the natural “rain” of airborne nutrients keeps most lawns at ecological equilibrium, mimicking a natural prairie.
- For high-use lawns with children and/or pets, or on freely-draining soils, top dressing with a low nutrient, living compost or compost tea in the fall plus aeration with a garden fork helps.



Appropriate range for Habiturf® use