

Bahiagrass

If your yard does not have irrigation or if you have a large lot or acreage, bahiagrass is a good choice. Bahiagrass forms an extensive, deep root system. It grows better than other grasses in infertile, sandy soils and does not require high inputs of water or fertilizer. Planting bahiagrass by sod is initially more expensive than seeding, but produces an instant lawn. For best results, good quality weed free sod should be used. Establishment by seed is easier, but slower than with sod. The best time to plant bahiagrass seed is from April through June, since this permits a full growing season before cold weather sets in and takes advantage of the rainy season. Seed may be planted as late as September or early October, however, establishment is much slower in later planting because of the cooler weather and in most instances, a good sod will not be formed until the following summer. Bahiagrass produces unattractive seed heads continuously from May through November and requires weekly mowing with a heavy duty rotary mower for best appearance. Bahiagrass has fewer pest problems than any other lawn grass but it is susceptible to mole crickets. It does not have good tolerance for shade, traffic or salt spray.

There are variety of bahiagrass recommended for use by the University of Florida 'Argentine' bahiagrass forms a relatively dense sod and has a dark green color, making it acceptable for lawn use in many situations. It has wider leaf blades than other bahiagrass varieties as 'Common and 'Pensacola'. It has good insect and disease resistance and tolerates cold temperatures well. For information on selecting a turf grass for your lawn call the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener volunteer hotline at 233-1750 M-F 9-4

