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How do we Manage the Turfgrasses in Warm Season Climates?
Turfgrass Cultural Practices

- Mowing
- Fertilization
- Irrigation
- Cultivation (Aerification, verticutting)
- Pest Control
Warm-Season Grass Growth Calendar
Warm-Season Grass Growth Calendar
Soil Testing

- Performed to Estimate Plants Nutrient Requirements
- Soil Tests Have Traditionally Been Used to Determine Soil pH, Phosphorus, and Potassium Requirements
- One Can Also Test for Any Other Soil Nutrient
Fertilization

- **Bermudagrass**: 0.75-1 lb. nitrogen/1000 sq. ft./growing month (36-48 kg N/ha/growing month)

- **Bahiagrass**: 2-3 lb. nitrogen/1000 sq. ft./year (96-144 kg N/ha/year)

- Fertilization for warm-season grasses occurs during the growing season (in Southern USA late spring-early autumn)
Fertilization

- “Water Insoluble” and “slow release” nitrogen provides a longer lasting feeding
  - Sulfur-coated urea
  - Polymer-coated urea
  - Urea formaldehyde (methylene urea)
Mowing

- “One-third” rule as a guideline for mowing frequency
- Sharpen (replace) blades on a regular basis
- Mowing heights – Higher mowing heights will provide better wear tolerance and better rooting
- Try to mow at the highest height that will advocate for healthy grass, good footing, and “playability”/performance.
Mowing

- Try to mow at the highest height that will advocate for healthy grass, good footing, and “playability”/performance.
- Sideways adjustable deck mowers can help reduce “tracking”/”rutting” near rails.
Mowing
Mowing Quality
Mowing Quality
Irrigation

- Consistent Coverage
- Precipitation Rate

- Guideline Tools:
  - Moisture Meter
  - Evapotranspiration losses
    - $(ET_0 \times 0.6)$ is a good guideline for warm-season grasses
Moisture Meters and Uniformity

![Image of a moisture meter being used on a field]
HOLLOW TINE CULTIVATION

- Different tine configurations available
- Often Performed in Summer for Warm-Season Grasses
- Perform during periods of adequate recovery
DEEP TINE CULTIVATION

- Allow for Cultivation to Depths of 8 to 16 Inches
- Attempt to Modify Existing Soil
- Control Development of a Cultivation Pan
Deep Tine Cultivation
Cultivation -- Verticutting (Vertical Mowing)
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Thank You!

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