



Description

Celebration Bermudagrass is an Australian Breed *Cynodon dactylon* developed by renowned turfgrass breeder Rod Riley that offers specifiers, landscapers, golf course designers, sportsturf managers and homeowners exceptional performance across a wide spectrum of applications. Celebration is a dark blue-green turfgrass that grows in a low prostrate fashion and requires less mowing than typical bermudagrass varieties. Celebration has tough runners, rhizomes, and deep roots that provide excellent sod strength, wearability, and improved drought tolerance. While shade tolerance research is ongoing at the university level, Celebration is the first bermudagrass to exhibit improved tolerance in sportsturf comparisons. Celebration has also been included in several comparative bermudagrass studies including the 2002 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials where early observations are very promising.

Production and Quality Control

Genetic purity and preservation of the Celebration Bermudagrass variety is of the utmost importance to Sod Solutions. Only turfgrass producers licensed by Sod Solutions are authorized to grow Celebration for sale. All Celebration Bermudagrass grown and distributed across the United States is certified by local state crop certification agencies that provide rigid standards and regulations for production, harvesting, and handling, that when adhered to, ensure a genetically pure, high quality, “certified” product. Additionally, all licensed Celebration production is monitored by Sod Solutions through on-going quality control and quality assurance programs.

Best Management Practices

To ensure optimum quality and performance of Celebration, users must accomplish necessary care and maintenance. This care and maintenance has been formalized below in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Celebration Bermudagrass. These BMPs are written as a guide and should be modified as local climate, soil, and environmental conditions dictate. It is important to note that no “magic fertilizer” or “super-chemical” will solve all problems or make any turfgrass perfect. Through consistent application of the BMPs and on-going evaluation, education, and modification of these practices, however, users will greatly enhance the quality and performance of Celebration Bermudagrass.

Installation and Establishment

Installation and the care taken during the initial days that follow are the most critical factors in determining the long-term quality and performance of Celebration Bermudagrass. Harvesting and transplantation is extremely stressful to any turfgrass and precautionary measures should be taken to help reduce further cultural and environmental stresses. Celebration is a tough, hardy turfgrass that once established, produces a beautiful lifetime lawn, landscape, sportsturf, or golf course. **Proper care, including pre-installation soil preparation and limiting time on the pallet to less than 24 hours yields positive results. Improper care, however, can cause death of the turfgrass or damage that results in lengthy recovery and additional expense.**

Irrigating Newly Installed Celebration: Proper watering upon installation is essential to successful establishment:

- Prior to installation, ensure irrigation systems are working properly and covering all areas to be planted
- Water thoroughly upon installation ensuring that both the Celebration is wet and the soil is moist to a depth of 3”
- In hot weather, water within a few hours of installation to mitigate severe damage or loss due to heat / dehydration stress
- To promote root establishment, water as needed to maintain moist soil to a depth of 3” for the first 1-2 weeks
- Shaded areas and heavy soils require less water than full-sun areas and sandy soils
- When proper rooting is evident, alter irrigation program accordingly (see Post Establishment Irrigation on page 2)

Mowing: New installations are often uneven and care should be taken not to scalp high spots:

- Mow within 10 days of installation and bag clippings the first few mowings
- See Post Establishment Mowing on page 2 for more information

Fertility: Use a transplant-friendly regimen that will help reduce shock and minimize disease:

- Use a starter fertilizer that is low in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphorous and Potassium



➤ **Post Establishment**

Mowing: Mowing is a critical and often under appreciated cultural practice:

- Maintain Celebration at 0.5-2" (1" is optimal)
- Heights above 2" will reduce quality
- Rotary mowers are preferred for heights 1" or higher
- Reel mowers are preferred for heights below 1"
- Mow every 5-7 days during the active growing season. Mow every 10-14 days, or as needed, during cooler weather
- Never cut more than 1/3 of the total length of the blade at any one mowing
- If a scheduled mowing is missed and clippings clump on top, bag or vacuum clippings to reduce shade-out
- Vertical mowing (verticutting) may be performed to renovate Celebration

Insecticides: Avoid stress from insects by performing insecticidal applications as needed:

- **For any insecticide application, always read and follow label directions carefully**
- Early identification and treatment of insect stress minimizes inputs and injury
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of seasonal pests like Army and Webworms
- Grubs can reduce quality if critical populations are reached
- Control Army and Webworms with Sevin, Orthene, Diazinon or Permethrin-based products

Herbicides: Proper mowing, irrigation and fertilization of Celebration will reduce weed problems. If a weed problem persists:

- **For any herbicide application, always read and follow label directions carefully**
- **Improper use of herbicides can severely damage or kill Celebration**
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of seasonal weeds
- Identify the type of weed causing the problem before using any chemical controls
- Celebration, like Common and Tifway 419 bermudagrass, is tolerant of many commonly used herbicides

Fungicides: Celebration has shown resistance to most fungal problems and controls should be used only as needed:

- **For any fungicide application, always read and follow label directions carefully**
- Early identification and treatment of disease stress minimizes inputs and injury
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of unusual symptoms
- Consider a broad-spectrum fungicide application if predictable seasonal problems are noted
- Ask your Celebration grower to apply fungicide 1-2 weeks prior to harvest during times of high, disease-inducing stress

Irrigation: Established Celebration exhibits drought tolerance due to improved plant genetics and growth characteristics:

- Watering requirements are greatly dependent on soil type, season, geography and other factors
- Ensure irrigation systems are working properly and covering all areas covered by Celebration
- Make routine observations of the landscape and learn the signs (i.e. wilting) that indicate when irrigation is required
- Shaded areas and heavy soils require less water than full-sun areas and sandy soils
- Encourage deep root growth by watering until the soil is moist to a depth of 3", shallow watering encourages shallow roots
- Infrequent deep watering maximizes drought resistance and tolerance

Fertility: Proper fertility practices will encourage healthy, disease and insect free Celebration:

- Perform soil tests to understand your soil type(s) and condition and best determine your specific fertility needs
- Make routine observations and fertilize according to what the landscape tells you
- Understand what and how much fertilizer you are applying
- Avoid disease and insect inducing growth flushes by reducing Nitrogen rates
- Improve color and limit growth surges by utilizing iron sources
- Higher Nitrogen rates should only be applied in the spring, for injury recovery, or for planned "peaking" of Celebration
- Apply lower rates of Nitrogen in the summer and fall
- Recommended fertilizers include products lower in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphorous and Potassium. Understand which, and how much, fertilizer you are applying. Perform soil tests for best understanding of your local conditions and needs. Higher N rates should only be applied in the spring, for injury recovery, or for planned 'peaking'. Apply lower rates of N in summer and fall.