

Village Green Turf Maintenance Guide

Practical information
to assist in maintaining
your investment.



Village Green
TURFGRASS FOR THE FUTURE

Looking after your Village Green

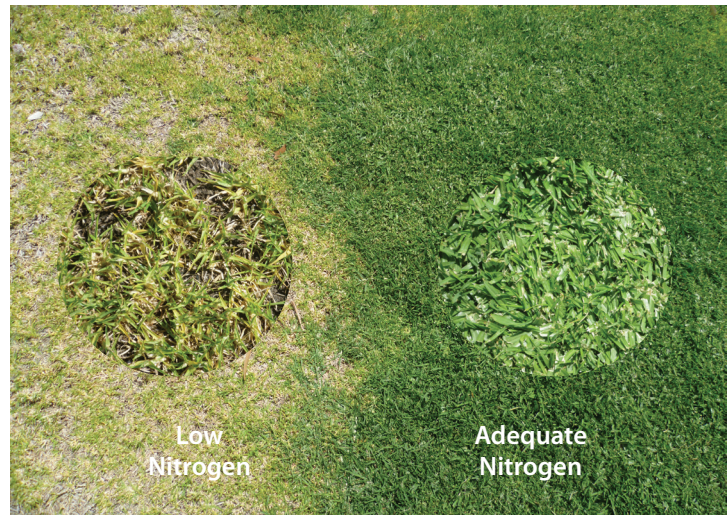
1 FERTILISING

Fertilising Village Green will help to maintain acceptable colour and density for year-round use. The key is the application of nitrogen fertilisers. Too much may create a thatch problem, too little and it may look hungry. To avoid these problems follow these recommendations:

- Apply nitrogen-based fertilisers between April and September. Village Green is a warm season grass but it is winter active and responds well to fertiliser in the cooler months without the worry of excessive growth.
- Avoid applying nitrogen fertilisers between October and March. Fertiliser use during these months can lead to excessive growth. If sites are high use and or high profile extra applications are recommended, but not in large amounts.
- Don't apply more than 40kg of actual nitrogen per hectare in any one application. Heavy applications waste money, can lead to runoff and may result in too much growth.

Iron and manganese are important trace elements. Foliar applications of iron sulphate and manganese sulphate (25kg per hectare for each) in Autumn and Spring will improve colour, wear tolerance and recovery.

Taking a soil sample annually is a good way to check the levels of other nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium.



2 IRRIGATION

Village Green has a high drought tolerance, which means that it can survive for extended periods without water, and will recover rapidly when water is applied.

In many locations throughout Australia, Village Green will need irrigation to look and perform at its best. A rough guide is to not allow the top 100mm of the soil surface from drying out excessively .

To check this, take a number of soil core samples down to 100mm and check moisture levels. If the soil core is damp to touch but doesn't make your fingers muddy or overly wet, then there is sufficient water and you don't need to irrigate. After you have irrigated take a core sample down to 100mm and check to see that the soil is fully wet.

If you want to be more accurate:

- apply enough irrigation water to replace 60% of daily evaporation e.g if daily net evaporation is 10mm, then you need to apply 6mm.
- use a soil moisture sensing device



A well-designed and maintained irrigation system is important.



Public open space watered at 60% of evaporation.



Soil cores assist in making irrigation decisions.

en really is as simple as 1, 2, 3.

3 MOWING

Regular mowing is essential to produce an acceptable turf surface for any type of use.

Good mowing practices will enhance the density, texture, colour, root-development and wear tolerance of Village Green.

Experience has shown that the best sports field surfaces for football and cricket are achieved by keeping Village Green mown around 15mm all year-round.

For example, low mowing of a cricket field in summer assists in preparing a dense wear tolerant turf cover for the Australian Rules football season.

Depending on the use, mowing height can range from 10mm on a hockey field, 25mm on a passive park or up to 150mm on a race track.

Whatever the mowing height, the key to success is the frequency of mowing. In fact the more frequent the Village Green is mowed the better it looks and performs.

As a general rule, you should mow Village Green weekly in summer. If minimal clippings are being taken, then you can stretch the interval between mowing. You can use either a slasher type mower or a cylinder type mower to mow Village Green.



University of western Australia research has found the following:

- village Green uses less water when mown low. In fact Village Green mown at 10mm used 15% less water than when mown at a 50mm height.
- water usage can also be reduced by greater than 20% by keeping the nitrogen status of kikuyu low during the summer months.

Other maintenance tips

FROST

To protect your Village Green from frost damage, keep it mown low and fertilise with a nitrogen-based fertiliser going into winter.



Frost affected Village Green

THATCH

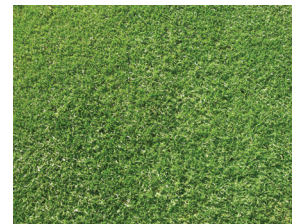
To prevent thatching, do not apply excessive amounts of fertiliser during the warmer months, mow regularly and mow low. If thatch is a problem then verti-mow late spring or early summer.



Verti-mow in summer if thatch builds

SALINITY

Village Green doesn't tolerate excessive levels of salt in the soil or irrigation water. If you think you have a problem get the water and soil tested, and seek advice. Village Green will recover quickly when salt levels are reduced after rainfall.



A dense healthy cover of Village Green smothers weeds.

WEED CONTROL

If you keep Village Green mown low and maintain a full cover of healthy turf all year-round, you will have few weed problems.



Plus wetting agent (right) minus wetting agent (left).

WETTING AGENTS

If you are growing Village Green on a sandy soil, apply a wetting agent to improve water penetration into the soil. It will have a great impact on the performance and look of Village Green over the warmer months.

Good maintenance helps the environment.

Village Green that is well maintained delivers great environmental benefits:

- Reduced chemical use - its dense cover smothers weeds.
- Reduced fertiliser and water use - its massive root system enables it to recover quickly from dry periods quickly and maintain colour and cover at low fertiliser levels.

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