Research Technical Note RTN Urban Greenery Series 02-20

Know Your Turfgrass

Cowgrass (Axonopus compressus) Author: Kenneth Marcum and Vivek Govindasamy



This is a series of basic management guidelines for the different tropical turfgrass species.

More details are available in CUGE Standard CS B01:2010 Guidelines for Tropical Turfgrass Establishment and Maintenance, please visit: http://www.cuge.com.sg/research/ catalog.php

Maintenance Practices for Axnonopus compressus

1. Lawn Construction

Necessary preplant operations: grading, drainage, rootzone soil modification, soil testing, starter fertiliser & soil amendment application - see CUGE Research Technical Note "Tropical Turfgrass Establishment: Lawn Construction" (RTN 01-2010)

2. Planting¹

Vegetative Methoads

- Close turfing: irregular, small sod pieces placed together
- Open turfing (plugging): 50 70 mm diameter rooted pieces planted on 300 mm centres
- · Close and open turfing result in irregular turf surface, requiring at least 2 post plant topdressings and rollings
- · Sodding: uniformly thick, cut turf sheets or rolls placed together. Roll after planting. Results in high quality, level turf surface

Seeding (seed generally not available): 6 - 12 kg live seed/1000 square metres. Post seeding mulch requried

3. Mowing²

Streetscapes:

- Height: 40 55 mm
- Frequency: 14 21 days³
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas) Parks:
- Height: 25 40mm
- Frequency: 10 14 days
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas) Events and sports lawns (not recommended for use in these areas):
- Height: 25 35 mm
- Frequency: 6 10 days
- Mower: Reel, Rotary, or Flail (Backpack should not be used)

4. Fertilisation⁴

Streetscapes: 0.1 kg N/100 square metres/month

Parks: 0.2 kg (low use) - 0.3 kg (high use) N/100 square metres/month

Checklist for Axonopus compressus	
Turf Characteristics	Level
Density	Low
Colour	Medium Green
Texture	Coarse
Establishment	Medium
Fertility Requirement	Low to medium
Uses	
Streetscapes	Low Maintenance
Parks	Medium Maintenance
Events/Sports Lawn	Not recommended
Tolerance to:	
Traffic (trampling)	Poor
Shade	Good
Drought	Moderate
Wet Soil	Good
Diseases/ Insects	Moderate
Salinity	Poor

Event and sports lawns (not recommended for use in these areas): 0.4 - 0.5 kg N/100 squares metres/month

5. Aerification (Hollow Or Solid Tining)⁵

Streetscapes: Not needed

Parks: Annually (low use) - every 1 to 3 months (high use)

Event and sports lawns (not recommended for use in these areas): Monthly

6. Topdressing

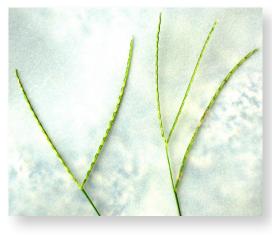
Streetscapes: Not needed

Parks: If needed to repair and level field

Event and sports lawns: Not recommended for use in these areas

7. Vertical Mowing

Not needed



Inflorescence details

Footnotes

- 1. For more detailed planting instructions, including fertilisation and irrigation, see CUGE RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Establishmen: Planting" (RTN 02-2010).
- 2. For more detailed mowing instructions, see CUGE RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Mowing" (RTN 03-2010).
- 3. Mowing frequency and height are positively related, i.e. longer frequency require greater heights.
- 4. Use turfgrass type fertiliser, with basic N-P-K ratio of 4-1-2 or 4-1-1. Properly calibrate spreader or sprayer to apply above rates on the basis of N (nitrogen), NOT total fertiliser (ex. urea is 45% N, therefore 1 kg N = 2.2 kg urea). For more detailed fertilisation instructions, see CUGE RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Fertilisation" (RTN 01-2011).
- 5. Either solid or hollow tines may be used. To be effective, penetration depth must be at least 70 mm. Actual depth of penetration needed will depend on extent and depth of soil compaction. To aid penetration, aerification should be done when soil is moist, but not wet (aerifying wet soils increases soil compaction).



