

### Know Your Turfgrass

St. Augustinegrass ( *Stenotaphrum secundatum* )

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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 *Stenotaphrum secundatum*

#### 1. Lawn Construction

Necessary pre-plant operations: grading, drainage, rootzone soil modification, soil testing, starter fertiliser & soil amendment application – see Research Technical Note “Tropical Turfgrass Establishment: Lawn Construction” (RTN 01-2010)

#### 2. Planting<sup>1</sup>

**Vegetative Methods:**

- 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 two 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:** Seeds not available

#### 3. Mowing<sup>2</sup>

**Streetscapes:**

- Height: 55 – 75 mm
- Frequency: 14 – 21 days<sup>3</sup>
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas)

**Parks**

- Height: 35 – 55 mm
- Frequency: 10 – 14 days
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas)

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

#### 4. Fertilisation<sup>4</sup>

**Streetscapes:** 0.1 kg N/100 square metres/month

**Parks:** 0.2 – 0.3 kg N/100 square metres/month

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

#### Checklist for *Stenotaphrum secundatum*

Turf Characteristics	Level
Density	Medium
Colour	Medium Green
Texture	Coarse
Establishment	Fast
Fertility Requirement	Medium
Uses	Level
Streetscapes	Medium Maintenance
Parks	Medium Maintenance
Events/ Sports Lawn	Not Recommended
Tolerance to:	Level
Traffic (trampling)	Moderate
Shade	Good
Drought	Poor
Wet Soil	Poor
Disease/ Insects	Moderate
Salinity	Good

## 5. Aeration (Hollow Or Solid Tining)

**Streetscapes:** Not needed

**Parks:** Not needed

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

## 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 recommended



Inflorescence details

### Footnotes:

1. For more detailed planting instructions, including seedbed preparation, post seeding mulching, fertilisation, and irrigation, see RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Establishment: Planting" (RTN 02-2010).
2. For more detailed mowing instructions, see RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Mowing" (RTN 03-2010).
3. Mowing frequency and height are positively related, i.e. longer frequencies 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 RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Fertilisation" (RTN 01-2011).