



# Seed It To Believe It

## How to Establish & Maintain *Sea Spray*

Seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*), a warm-season perennial grass, is broadly adapted to areas where bermudagrass is successful. It also does well in aquatic, semi-aquatic, and moist environments. In 1998, Turf-Seed, Inc. and Pure-Seed Testing, Inc., in cooperation with the University of Georgia, started work on developing an improved, seeded variety of seashore paspalum.

### Did You Know...

*Sea Spray was introduced into the golf course industry in 2005, after many years of experimental trials with viable seed head development, planting timing, gross seed yields, and germination techniques.*

## How to Establish *Sea Spray*

### Surface Preparation

If renovating existing turf, apply a non-selective herbicide\*, such as Roundup®, in order to kill existing turf, then till the soil to a depth of 2 to 3 inches (5-7 cm) and rake the area to remove excess debris and create a smooth surface for good soil-to-seed contact.

### Seeding Rates

- Seed at 0.75–1.25 lbs / 1,000 sq ft (0.4-0.6 kg/a) for raw seed or 1.0–2.0 lbs / 1,000 sq ft (0.5-1.0 kg/a) for Zeba-coated seed
- The best time to seed is late spring through mid-summer; fall planting is not recommended except in temperate climates where planting is successful year round
- The ideal germination temperatures are 86-95 F (30-35 C)
- Mulch or seed blanket improves moisture retention of the seedbed

### Watering

It is essential to establish the variety with fresh, potable water that is < 2000 ppm total TDS. Keep the seedbed continually moist with fresh water by irrigating frequently throughout the day during germination and through early establishment to maintain surface moisture during the first 14 days after planting.

### Pre-Plant Fertilizer Levels

To determine the nutrition needs, we strongly recommend soil testing (and water analysis). Scotts Poly-S 16-25-12 is an ideal initial nutrient base for pre-planting and early establishment.

### Mowing/Topdressing/Verticutting

On greens, mow when turf reaches a height of 0.25 inches (6 mm), and then lower the mowing height slowly. At this stage, mowing improves lateral growth for faster establishment. About 4-6 weeks after germination top dress lightly with greens mix and continue topdressing every 10-21 days. Light verticutting or spiking is recommended at around 5-6 weeks, or when stolons start rapidly growing and adequate density is achieved to encourage verticle and lateral growth. Topdress after verticutting or spiking to give uniformity to the putting surface.

For other turf areas, like tees, fairways, roughs and other higher cut turfgrass, mow when turf reaches approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) in height to reduce the chances of scalping and continue mowing to encourage lateral growth.



\*NOTE: Bermudagrass is best removed with fumigation, since non-selective herbicides may not completely kill all of the vegetative tissue. Note that seashore paspalum is sensitive to some herbicides, so check the herbicide label before applying.



## How to Maintain *Sea Spray*

### Fertilizer

- Recommended N-P-K ratio for the first month is 1:2:3 or 1:3:4
- Apply 0.3-0.5 lbs of nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) per 1,000 sq ft (0.15-0.24 kg/a) weekly until uniform turf establishment
- Apply 2 to 3 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft (1.0-1.5 kg/a) in early fall or spring - do not exceed 4 lbs (18 kg) per year
- Do not apply more than 0.5 lbs of fast-release, water-soluble nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft (0.24 kg/a)
- Maintain high levels of phosphorus (minimum of 3%–8% on soil CEC sites)
- In salt-affected environments, monitor calcium, magnesium, manganese and iron for deficiencies
- Once fully established, *Sea Spray* reduces nitrogen use rates by 66%, as compared to bermudagrass.

### Watering

Deep, infrequent irrigations—about 1 inch (2.5 cm) every week or two—are best throughout the growing season.

### Mowing

To minimize the possibility of scalping, mow *Sea Spray* to a height of 0.5 to 1.5 inches (1.25-3.75 cm). Gradually reduce the mowing height during

### For Best Results

*Sea Spray seed should be stored in an air-conditioned environment with low humidity in order to extend shelf life of seed. Seed may begin to lose germination with-in 45-60 days if exposed to high humidity and temperatures.*

peak growing conditions especially during the summer season.

### Additional Care

For improved winter color in mild climates aerate and topdress in early to mid-September. This allows time for full recovery prior to the onset of cooler temperatures. In areas where *Sea Spray* would go off color due to cool temperatures, overseed to maintain optimal turf color with salt-tolerant Brightstar SLT or Salinas perennial ryegrasses at 10 to 15 lbs per 1,000 sq ft (4.75-7.25 kg/a) for conventional turf.



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