

TURFGRASS



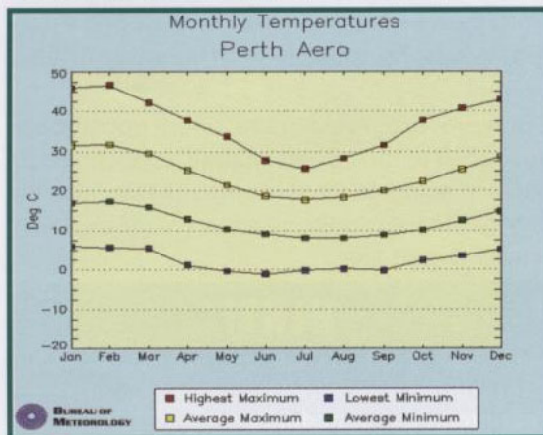
The Perth Metropolitan area experiences a typical 'Mediterranean' type climate, characterised by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

These environmental conditions make it possible to sustain a wide range of turf grass species, including both warm and cool season types.

WARM SEASON TURF GRASSES

This term describes grasses that grow best during the warm part of the year, with an optimum temperature range of 25–35°C, and a semi-dormant period during colder winter weather. These grass types develop low temperature discolouration and are prone to frost damage.

In general, warm season grasses have a low growth habit and are tolerant of close mowing. They develop deep root systems and have good drought, heat and wear tolerance. The most common method of establishment is by vegetative means, such as stolonising or from roll on turf.




Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)

Kikuyu is the most wide spread turf grass in the Perth region due to its aggressive growth characteristics and invasive nature. It was originally introduced as a pasture grass and has adapted well to sports fields and parks, where proper management can produce a high quality turf surface.

While some turf managers consider kikuyu a weed, there are no herbicides currently registered for its selective control. Kikuyu is very difficult to eradicate once it has established and care must be taken because it can spread from parks to nearby bushland.

Kikuyu has a number of desirable characteristics as a turf grass. It is highly competitive against broad leaf weeds, such as clover, capeweed, and bindii (Jo-Jo), as well as grass weeds such as crabgrass and Parramatta grass.

When established, it has a relatively low fertiliser requirement compared to other turf grasses. Kikuyu also retains good colour during winter and has strong recuperative capacity after damage, which is beneficial in high use situations such as sports fields.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Perth's climate, kikuyu is the most winter active of the warm season grasses and has the best recovery rate after wear in winter.