



LANDSCAPING TIPS brought to you by the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association, the Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) and Arizona Certified Landscape Professional (ACL) programs [www.ALCA.org](http://www.ALCA.org).

### Summertime Bermuda Care

Bermudagrass forms the lush green foundation to many of our low desert landscapes. It provides a cooling effect to the microclimate as well as a base for our winter overseeded ryegrass. The care that is provided to Bermudagrass during its growing season is impactful to the overall health of the turf year-round.

- Use cycle/soak if needed to prevent run-off and achieve watering to the entire depth of the root system- about 8-10".
- If turf looks dry, don't just assume it actually is dry. Probe the soil at least 8" deep to confirm if it is too wet or too dry.
- Water early in the morning to:
  - Reduce the chance of fungi developing.
  - Cut down on evaporation – more water gets into the root zone.
- Adjust the amount of water being applied at least monthly according to the evapotranspiration (ET) rate or by using a smart controller.
  - Water needs of Bermudagrass (and all plants) can vary significantly as we move from hot dry June into monsoon July.
- Use a balanced fertilizer. Nitrogen is great, but the P and the K help in overall health as well.
- In areas where Bermudagrass is struggling (not due to shade), take a soil sample. Likewise, take another soil sample at the same property where the turf is healthy and compare the analyses.
  - Use the results to implement a fertilization program and cultural practices that support healthy Bermudagrass.
- Cut most varieties of Bermudagrass low and frequently to help stimulate growth.
  - Know your variety and its preferred mow height.
- Remove thatch if it is greater than ½" during summertime, when Bermudagrass is actively growing, to stimulate water and fertilizer penetration into the soil.
- If planning for overseeding this fall, it is important to grow robust Bermudagrass right now during the prime growing season.
  - Bermudagrass needs at least 100 days of strong growth before the trauma of the overseeding process, or next year's spring transition could be spotty or delayed.



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