

## Know Your Turfgrass

Cowgrass (*Axonopus compressus*)

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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 *Axonopus 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. 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 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 required

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

##### Streetscapes:

- Height: 40 - 55 mm
- Frequency: 14 - 21 days<sup>3</sup>
- 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. Fertilisation<sup>4</sup>

**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	Level
Streetscapes	Low Maintenance
Parks	Medium Maintenance
Events/ Sports Lawn	Not recommended
Tolerance to:	Level
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. Aeration (Hollow Or Solid Tining)<sup>5</sup>

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, aeration should be done when soil is moist, but not wet (aerifying wet soils increases soil compaction).