

## Know Your Turfgrass

Pearlgrass (*Axonopus* sp.)

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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* sp.

#### 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
- Close turfing results in irregular turf surface, requiring at least two postplant topdressings and rollings
- Open turfing (plugging): not recommended
- Sodding: uniformly thick, cut turf sheets or rolls placed together. Roll after planting. Results in high quality, level turf surface

**Seeding:** Seed not available

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

##### Streetscapes

- Height: 30 - 40 mm
- Frequency: 40 - 60 days<sup>3</sup>
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas)

##### Parks

- Height: 25 - 35 mm
- Frequency: 30 - 50 days
- Mower: Rotary or Flail (Backpack in irregular, obstructed areas)

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

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

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

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

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

#### 5. Aerification (Hollow Or Solid Tining)

Not needed

#### 6. Topdressing

**Streetscapes:** Not needed

#### Checklist for *Axonopus* sp.

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

**Parks:** If needed to repair and level field

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

## 7. Vertical Mowing

Not needed

### Footnotes

1. For more detailed instructions, including fertilisation and irrigation, see CUGE RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Establishment: 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 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 fertiliser instructions, see CUGE RTN "Tropical Turfgrass Fertilisation" (RTN 01-2011).



Inflorescence details