

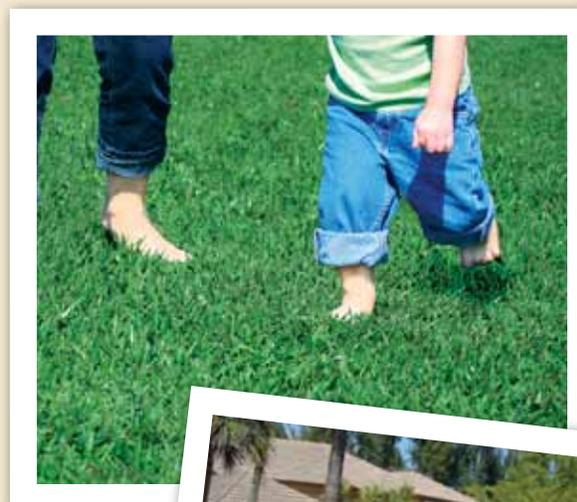


Sapphire

ST. AUGUSTINE®

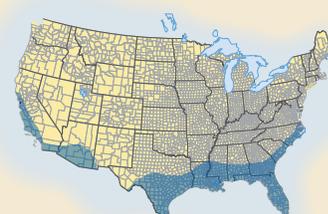
- Softer, high performance St. Augustine
- Good wear and injury recovery
- Dark, blue-green color

Sapphire St. Augustine is an attractive turfgrass with fast prostrate (horizontal) growth, purple stolon color and a long leaf blade that is highly infolded in mature turf, giving the grass a fine leaf appearance. Sapphire has a pleasing blue-green color, and has excellent color retention. Sapphire is hardwearing in demanding climates. Sapphire tolerates salt, shade, and drought. It performs well with less maintenance, fertilization and water. Sapphire is positioned to be a superior homeowner's grass, due to improved wear recovery and reduced weed problems.



	Characteristics	Sapphire
AESTHETICS	Uses	Home, Commercial
	Color	Deep Blue Green
	Blade Width	6.4mm
	Feel	Soft / Infolded Leaf
	Fall Color Retention	Good*
	Spring Greenup	Good*
FUNCTION	Soils	Sand, Sandy Loam, Clay, Muck
	Growth	Rapid Horizontal Growth from Stolons
	Wear	Good*
	Injury Recovery	Excellent
	Insects	Selective Resistance*
	Diseases	Very Good Resistance*
CLIMATE	Heat	Excellent
	Cold	Good*
	Shade	Good*
	Drought	Very Good*
	Salt	Good*
CARE	Mower	Standard Rotary
	Height	0.5"-2.5"
	Weed Control	Good

Where it will grow



* Further testing scheduled to better quantify this characteristic.

Quality Control

Sod Solutions, Inc., the developer of Sapphire® St. Augustine and other improved warm season turfgrass varieties, is dedicated to meeting the needs of consumers and landscape & lawn professionals by providing new turfgrass varieties that look better, perform better, and that are easier to maintain than other turfgrasses. Extensive research and development efforts underscore a commitment to develop and release only high quality, genetically pure, competitively priced varieties. Stringent quality control measures ensure that:

- Sod Solutions, the patent holder for Sapphire® St. Augustine, performs a rigorous producer selection process, licensing only quality, service-oriented producers to produce the varieties.
- All planting stock material originates from approved, genetically approved sources.
- Producers must adhere to accepted guidelines during all production phases.
- Production fields are inspected on a regular basis.

The Experts Talk About Sapphire St. Augustine

“Sapphire has a good natural dark green color. It grows in quickly, and also repairs itself quickly, if damaged. Sapphire is competitive against the encroachment of weeds. I would also say that Sapphire handles really well.”

~ *Glen Rod; Rod Grass Farm, El Campo, TX*

“The bottom line so far is that Sapphire is a very promising grass: it could be one of the great turfgrasses. It has performed well at all U.S. (test) locations, even some where other St. Augustines have really struggled. It’s amazing how fast it grows in.”

~ *David Y. Han, Ph.D; Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Turfgrass Management Department of Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University*

“From a production standpoint, Sapphire’s grow-in time is 1 to 1-1/2 months less than other St. Augustines. It seems to hold darker green color better than some hybrid semi-dwarf St. Augustines. And, Sapphire appears to be more frost tolerant, staying green longer into the season. This can be a “positive” in areas of southern Florida where extended frost periods are not really an issue.”

~ *Jonathan Brown; Manager for Farm Operations, Bethel Farms, Arcadia, FL*

“The unique color of my Sapphire lawn has been commented on by most of my neighbors. The color is darker and greener than most neighboring lawns. Sapphire stays greener going into winter; and it is really thick to walk on.”

~ *Brenda Roberts; Homeowner, Mt. Pleasant, SC*

Initial Installation

Prepare soil and water thoroughly before sod is placed (*additional info. at www.sodsolutions.com*). It is essential that turf be watered thoroughly when installed, to keep new sod from drying out. Over watering for extended periods, however, will severely damage turf, and induce disease and/or rotting roots. Apply a balanced fertilizer after installation. It usually takes 7–10 days during the active growing season for sod to re-establish, but may take longer during cooler weather. Check proper rooting by lifting a corner of a new sod piece and noting if “white” roots have connected to the ground. Mow the new sod 7–10 days after installation.

Management (General Guidelines)

THESE GUIDELINES ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE AS CLIMATE AND SOIL CONDITIONS VARY GREATLY.

	MOWING	WATERING	FERTILIZER	INSECTS	DISEASE
SPRING	Mow 2–2.5” every 7–10 days or as needed; slightly higher in shade. Can mow to 1.5” if mowings are more frequent. Do not scalp. Never remove more than 1/3 of leaf blade in any single mowing.	Water thoroughly when needed. Apply when slight wilting is visible. 1” per week during summer months or drought for sandy loamy soils. Heavy soils require less. Turf in shaded areas will require less water. Infrequent thorough watering promotes healthy turf. Overwatering causes excessive growth, disease, root rot, and will suffocate turf. Use a rain shutoff switch with automatic systems. Early morning hours are best for irrigation; night waterings are not suggested.	Apply after danger of frost or in mid-February in frost-free areas. Use balanced time-released fertilizer, such as 16–4–8. Can use products with iron to improve color. Perform soil analysis for best results.	Watch for chinch bugs during drought—apply insecticide according to label directions if needed.	Sapphire exhibits tolerance to most diseases, but regular monitoring will i.d. problems before they are severe. Watch for brown patches and gray leaf spot—if detected, apply systemic fungicide. Early treatment is essential.
SUMMER				Watch for chinch bugs, webworms, and mole crickets—apply insecticides according to label directions, if needed.	
FALL	Mow 2–2.5” every 10–14 days or as needed; slightly higher in shade. Can mow to 1.5” if mowings are more frequent. Do not scalp. Never remove more than 1/3 of leaf blade in any single mowing. Mowing in winter may not be necessary where dormancy is in effect.	In fall, use a balanced fertilizer such as 10–10–10. Can use products with iron to improve color. In winter, fertilizer is not recommended except in extreme south Florida, south Texas (frost-free). Perform soil analysis for best results. be necessary where dormancy is in effect.	Watch for mole crickets—apply insecticide according to label directions if needed.		
WINTER	Watch for mole crickets—apply insecticide according to label directions if needed.	Watch for brown patches in warmer areas—if detected, apply systemic fungicide.			

For more extensive information about management techniques, visit our Web site at www.sodsolutions.com

Sod Solutions makes no representations or warranties concerning Sapphire® St. Augustine, including any warranties concerning merchantability or fitness for a particular use or any warranties or representations concerning the marketability or growing capacity of Sapphire St. Augustine, or that Sapphire St. Augustine will perform in any particular way or manner.

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