Exceeding expectations

Parks
Roadsides
Landscaping
Why Centipede?
The transportation departments in both South and North Carolina have launched roadside centipede conversion programs. Besides the fiscal benefit of lower maintenance and fertilization needs, they cite improved safety conditions for highway workers and motorists. Centipede’s low growing habit means mowing can be reduced 50 to 75% per year when compared to bermudagrass or tall fescue turf in a park or roadside setting.

Why TifBlair™?

Whether you are a landscaper needing a fast cover or you need quick erosion control for parkland and roadside use, TifBlair™ Certified Centipede seed will work for you.

TifBlair™, the only Certified Centipede seed, brings a host of characteristics that make it a great value for broad commercial cover or a lifetime lawn:

- **Fast aggressive cover from seed.** TifBlair™ produces longer runners and germinates faster than common centipede. A Virginia Department of Transportation study shows that TifBlair™ covers twice as fast as common centipede in the first 30 days after rainfall. Provides an attractive turf that establishes quickly for excellent erosion control.

- **Broad adaptability.** TifBlair™ will survive and thrive in high ph, low ph and moderate soil conditions. It will live in full sun to shade conditions and displays excellent cold hardness across the temperate zone.

- **A long-term solution.** Establishment equals success. Because of TifBlair’s cold hardness and drought tolerance, once it is established it continues to spread, choking out weeds and eventually becoming a tight, lush turf. TifBlair’s low maintenance requirements make it a long-term financial solution and TifBlair™ has demonstrated fast recovery from stress of drought or wear.

- **Super-Wrapped.** Coated with a protective cover to assist in absorbing water, protecting seed from bird feeding and making seed distribution easier and more uniform than seed not Super-Wrapped™.

Great savings may be realized by converting the areas around public buildings, school common areas, in parks, cemeteries or any place that needs ground cover and has modest foot traffic.
Re coversquickly from wea rand
drought

Provides a lush turf that establishes quickly for excellent erosion control

Low maintenance requires less frequent mowing

Environmentally friendly – requires little fertilization or herbicide support

TifBlair™ vs. Common Centipede development *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TifBlair™</th>
<th>Common Centipede</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of runners</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total runners longer than 5 cm</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of longest runner</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of leaves on longest runner</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total runner length per plant</td>
<td>46.4 cm</td>
<td>37.6 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length of runner 5.0cm on longer</td>
<td>43.1 cm</td>
<td>35.9 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Diameter (cm)</td>
<td>170 - 174</td>
<td>124 - 140</td>
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* Figures are based on a 1995 and 2000 study, conducted by The University of Georgia

Average Coverage

Days after rainfall:
- 30: 5.0% (Yellow) = Common Centipede
- 30: 11.67% (Green) = TifBlair™ Centipede
- 60: 11.67% (Green) = TifBlair™ Centipede
- 60: 18.33% (Green) = TifBlair™ Centipede

Growth Map

= Common Centipede
= TifBlair™ Centipede
“One of the major reasons for the release of TifBlair™ was its improved seeding vigor and root depth in acid soil.”
– Dr. Wayne Hanna, University of Georgia.

“It is a ‘sleeping giant’ among southern turf grasses. It’s a tremendous grass that is not yet being used to its potential. It produces a very desirable turf with a minimum input.”
-- Hanna

“With about 10 percent of the state’s roadside converted to centipede, North Carolina is saving over $1 million per year in maintenance costs. That could double over the next three years as the program expands.”
– Derek Smith, vegetation agronomist for the North Carolina DOT stated in “Centipede Grass: Cost-Effective Alternative for Roadside” in Georgia County Government May-June, 2006

“TifBlair™ covers quicker at planting than Common Centipede. This is important for erosion control and hydro-seeding.”
– VT researcher

“The quicker cover by TifBlair™ meant more protection from erosion.”
– Virginia Tech researchers involved in the Virginia DOT study

“TifBlair™ covers quicker at planting than Common Centipede. This is important for erosion control and hydro-seeding.”
– VT researcher

TifBlair’s improved vigor, better cold tolerance, seed yield and rooting depth have effectively expanded the range of centipede.”
– Hanna

“Because it eventually chokes out other taller weeds and grasses, centipede improves motorist and worker safety in roadside use. The lower cost of maintenance pays for the conversion in one to two years.”
– Dr. Earl Elsner, Georgia Seed Development Commission

“An added advantage for park and roadside use is that centipede is not a preferred forage for deer.”
– Hanna

When to Plant

Plant year round but remember that seed planted in late summer could produce seedlings that may winter kill. Winter seeding is ok as seed will not germinate until soils warm in spring.

Seedbed preparation

Existing / Renovation
    Kill existing vegetation
    Remove dead debris or till to expose soil

New construction
    Grade to minimize erosion

Seeding rate

Commercial
    20 – 40 lbs/Acre of Super-Wrapped TifBlair™

Residential
    ½ to 1 lb per 1000 sq ft of Super-Wrapped TifBlair™

TifBlair™ seed was bred for aggressive vigor and spreads more rapidly than all other centipede grasses. Make sure seed distribution is uniform.

Seeding Options

Cyclone and Drop spreaders place seed on the soil surface

Slit seeders place seed just below the soil surface (do not plant seed deeper than ¼ inch)

Hydro-seeders place seed on soil surface covered by a protective mulch

Post seeding activities

Cyclone or drop seeder – rake seed into soil surface making sure seed are not planted too deep (1/4 inch or less) and apply straw mulch if possible

Slit seeding – mulch where soils may erode and to hold moisture near seed

Hydro-seeding – no additional action needed

Once soils are warm and moisture is available – seed will germinate in 2 to 3 weeks. Dry periods of 2 to 3 weeks with little rain can slow germination and cover. Once rainfall returns or irrigation is applied, TifBlair™ will spread and rapidly cover.

Patten Seed Company
Lakeland, GA
800-634-1672
www.tifblairseed.com