

PENSACOLA

Bahia Grass

Paspalum notatum



Bahiagrass was first brought to the United States from South America in 1914 and was primarily used for pastures. Pensacola Bahiagrass was developed in 1944 by the Georgia Soil Conservation Service and the Florida Agriculture Experiment Station. It is the most widely grown variety of bahiagrass and is used for both turf and pasture. Developed with improved turf quality and better winter hardiness than common Bahia it also has better shade tolerance and will stay green longer and green up faster than bermudagrass. Which makes for an excellent low maintenance turf for use in the humidity prone southeast.

Pensacola bahia is a warm season perennial that is deep rooted with both rhizomes and stolons. It is a low growing, semi-shade tolerant plant that is a prolific seed producer, however is slow to establish. It is drought tolerant with low fertility requirements, which makes it a great choice for low input situations. Uses include lawns, roadsides, erosion control, grazing, hay and wildlife habitat. Pensacola Bahia is a permanent grass that goes dormant under frost conditions. In frost free areas, Pensacola Bahia can stay green throughout the year. In areas of frost, where year round green is desired, overseed with perennial ryegrass. Plant in spring or early summer with adequate moisture to reduce weed pressure.

Plant in early spring to mid summer. Normal (average) germination period for Bahia (Pensacola & Tifton 9) is considered to be 28 days. When dormancy is broken in the seeds, they germinate in approx. 28 days. During hot summer months such as July/August, when rainfall is plentiful, Pensacola Bahia seed can germinate in as little as 10-14 days. Higher soil temps coupled with moist conditions will also cause more of the seed to germinate. Pensacola Bahia has a better resistance to ergot, which is why it should be used on less fertile soils or those that will not be managed properly. This variety of Bahiagrass is relatively easy to maintain once it is established as compared to other pasture grasses. Certain chemicals can harm Bahiagrass, so please consult your local extension agent for regional recommendations.

Planting Rates

Turf: Broadcast 8-10 lbs. (3.62-4.54 kg) per 1000sq ft

Pasture: Drill 15-18 lbs. (6.80—816 kg) per acre in 20 inch rows

SEE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR IN DEPTH INSTRUCTIONS



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