



**EMPIRE  
TURF®**

The Proven Zoysia Grass®



## Owner's guide

*Congratulations*

on your decision to upgrade your lawn to EMPIRE Turf. EMPIRE is *the proven zoysia grass* and will supply years of enjoyment.

Following these steps will keep your EMPIRE lawn in its best condition.



*EMPIRE Turf, one  
lawn...Many Benefits!*



▶ *sign up at*  
**EMPIREturf.com**

EMPIRE Turf maintenance videos will be sent to your email address with tips, suggestions and alerts at different times of the year.





The Proven Zoysia Grass®

The outlined steps below are proper care and maintenance checklists for each of the seasons.

**Prior to and immediately after installation:** Prepare soil and water thoroughly before sod is placed (*additional info at [www.empireturf.com](http://www.empireturf.com).*) It is essential that turf be watered thoroughly when installed. Soak upon installation and water as needed to keep new sod from drying out. Overwatering for an extended period, however, will severely damage the turf, inducing disease and rotting roots. It usually takes 7–10 days during the active growing season for the sod to establish, but may take longer during cooler weather. Proper rooting can be checked by lifting a corner of the new sod piece and noting if “white” roots have connected to the ground. Mow the new sod 7–10 days after installation.

### SEASONAL MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- ▶ *Have your soil Ph level tested every other year and add the necessary amendments.*
- ▶ *Always read and understand the labels before applying any chemical to your lawn.*

#### SPRING

1. Following the final freeze of winter, drop your mower a notch and give your EMPIRE a “buzz-cut.” Make sure to bag up all the material. This will get rid of the brown top layer and any old leaves. Then for the rest of spring and summer keep your EMPIRE lawn mowed between 1-2 inches.
2. Apply fertilizer. A general recommendation would be to use a 1-0-1 ratio variety, like a 15-0-15. This promotes the overall health of the grass.
3. Apply pre-emergent herbicide. This will cut down on summer weeds.
4. Treat with a broad-spectrum insecticide. If you use a granular variety, make sure to water the lawn immediately after application to help it get it into the soil. Make sure it offers control for billbugs.
5. Don't overwater. In the active growing season, EMPIRE needs about one inch of water a week, either from natural rainfall or irrigation. Too much water can cause fungus.
6. Apply fungicide (if needed). If you have had a fungus or disease in your EMPIRE in the past or have quite a bit of shade in the yard, you want to apply a systemic fungicide to prevent future outbreaks.

#### SUMMER

1. When mowing, never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade with each mow. If you remove more than that, you will stress the grass and it will go brown for a short while. If you go on vacation, you may have to mow a couple of times to get the grass back to its desired height. Wait about 3-5 days between each mowing.
2. Be careful not to over water the grass. EMPIRE's blades will curl up when it needs water. Water for longer periods of time, less frequently and in the early morning hours. Always take rainfall into consideration.

#### FALL

1. Apply “winterizing” fertilizer. A general guideline would be something with a 1-0-2 ratio like an 8-0-16.
2. Apply fungicide. This will help the grass enter the colder months in a healthier state. You will likely need multiple applications. Remember to wait 21 days between each application.
3. Treat with broad-spectrum insecticide. If you use a granular variety, make sure to water the lawn immediately after application to help it get into the soil. Make sure it offers control for billbugs.
4. You will mow less in the cooler months of the fall. Leave your EMPIRE Turf lawn slightly higher than normal to encourage deeper root growth for winter. Basically adjust your mower settings to go up one notch.
5. Water less. As temperatures drop grasses don't need as much irrigation so adjust your schedule accordingly. Too much watering can lead to a lawn disease.
6. If you haven't had problems with winter weeds in the past, you can forgo herbicide in the fall. However, if you do get winter weeds, you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide for prevention.

#### WINTER

1. Maintain your EMPIRE lawn...mow and water less in the colder months.