

# Selecting a Florida Turfgrass

Grass is a good choice for areas with high recreational use. Before selecting a turfgrass, consider your desired maintenance level which is closely related to cost and time. Then, carefully select the grass type best suited for your site conditions. Keep in mind that groundcovers may be more successful and practical in certain situations including low traffic areas, heavily shaded spots (such as under trees), and steep slopes where grass is difficult to maintain.

For more information on each of the turfgrass species listed below, visit: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<i>Environment</i>	<b>Bahiagrass</b>	<b>Bermudagrass</b>	<b>Carpetgrass</b>	<b>Centipedegrass</b>	<b>Seashore Paspalum</b>	<b>St. Augustinegrass</b>	<b>Zoysiagrass</b>
<i>Area Adapted To</i>	Statewide	Statewide	Wet Areas	North FL & Panhandle	Statewide	Statewide	Statewide
<i>Mowing Height (inches)</i>	3 - 4	1 - 2	1.5 - 2	1.5 - 2.5	1 - 2	2 - 4	1.5 - 2.5
<i>Soil</i>	Acid, Sandy	Wide Range	Acid, Wet	Acid, Infertile	Wide Range	Wide Range	Wide Range
<i>Leaf Texture</i>	Coarse-Medium	Fine-Medium	Medium	Medium	Fine-Medium	Coarse-Medium	Fine-Medium
<i>Drought Tolerance</i>	Excellent	Good	Poor	Medium	Good	Fair	Medium
<i>Salt Tolerance</i>	Very Poor	Good	Poor	Poor	Excellent	Good	Good
<i>Shade Tolerance</i>	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Good (cultivar dependent)	Good (cultivar dependent)
<i>Wear Tolerance</i>	Poor	Good - Excellent	Poor	Poor	Good - Excellent	Poor	Good - Excellent
<i>Nematode Tolerance</i>	Very Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Depends on cultivar
<i>Maintenance Level</i>	Low	Medium - High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
<i>Establishment Methods</i>	Seed, Sod	Sod, Sprigs, Plugs, some seed	Seed, sprigs	Seed, Sod, Sprigs, Plugs	Sod, Plugs, Sprigs	Sod, Plugs, Sprigs	Sod, Plugs, Sprigs

1 'Hammock' centipedegrass is a selection adapted to south Florida. 2 Mowing height for St. Augustinegrass is cultivar dependent (dwarf cultivars 2-2.5 inches and standard cultivars 3.5-4 inches).  
3 'Celebration' bermudagrass can tolerate higher levels of shade than other bermudagrass varieties. 4 'Seaspray' seashore paspalum is a seeded variety.