



## PRODUCERS & INSTALLERS OF PREMIUM PEAT GROWN SOD

# **LATITUDE<sup>36</sup>** *bermudagrass*

### **Description:**

Latitude 36™ Bermuda grass is a high quality, sterile triploid hybrid developed by Oklahoma State University. It was rated highly in the NTEP (National Turfgrass Evaluation Program) trials for resistance to spring dead spot and for wear tolerance. Latitude 36 offers outstanding cold hardiness, high traffic tolerance and exceptional visual quality. It has finer leaves than NorthBridge. Latitude 36™ is an excellent choice for use in the southern U.S. through the transition zone and the upper region of Bermuda grass adaptation.

### **Production and Quality Control:**

Genetic purity and preservation of the Latitude 36 Bermuda grass variety is of the utmost importance. Only licensed turfgrass producers are authorized to grow Latitude 36 for sale. All Latitude 36 Bermuda grass grown and distributed across the United States is certified by local state crop certification agencies that provide rigid standards and regulations for production, harvesting, and handling, that when adhered to, ensure a genetically pure, high quality, "certified" product. Additionally, all licensed Latitude 36 production is monitored through on-going quality control and quality assurance programs.

### **Best Management Practices**

---

#### **Installation and Establishment**

Installation and the care taken during the initial days that follow are the most critical factors in determining the long-term quality and performance of Latitude 36 Bermuda grass. Harvesting and transplantation is extremely stressful to any turfgrass and precautionary measures should be taken to help reduce further cultural and environmental stresses. Latitude 36 is a tough, hardy turfgrass that once established, produces a beautiful lifetime lawn, landscape, sports turf, or golf course.

**Proper care, including pre-installation soil preparation and limiting time on the pallet to less than 24 hours, yields positive results. Improper care, however, can cause death of the turfgrass or damage that results in lengthy recovery and additional expense.**

#### **Irrigating Newly Installed Latitude 36:**

**Proper watering upon installation is essential to successful establishment:**

- Prior to installation, ensure irrigation systems are working properly and covering all areas to be planted
- Water thoroughly upon installation ensuring that both the Latitude 36 is wet and the soil is moist to a depth of 3", which is approximately 1" of water per day. Do this for the first 2-3 weeks.
- In hot weather, water within a few hours of installation to mitigate severe damage or loss due to heat / dehydration stress
- Shaded areas and heavy soils require less water than full-sun areas and sandy soils
- When proper rooting is evident, alter irrigation program accordingly (see Post Establishment Irrigation on page 2)

#### **Mowing:**

New installations are often uneven and care should be taken not to scalp high spots:

- Mow within 10 days of installation and bag clippings the first few mowings
- See Post Establishment Mowing on page 2 for more information

#### **Fertility:**

Use a transplant-friendly regimen that will help reduce shock and minimize disease:

- Use a starter fertilizer that is low in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphorous and Potassium

## Post Establishment

---

**Mowing:** Mowing is a critical and often under appreciated cultural practice:

- Maintain Latitude 36 at 0.5-2" (1" is optimal)
- Heights above 2" will reduce quality
- Rotary mowers are preferred for heights 1" or higher
- Reel mowers are preferred for heights below 1"
- Mow every 5-7 days during the active growing season. Mow every 10-14 days, or as needed, during cooler weather
- Never cut more than 1/3 of the total length of the blade at any one mowing
- If a scheduled mowing is missed and clippings clump on top of the Latitude 36, bag or vacuum clippings to reduce shadeout
- Vertical mowing (verticutting) may be performed to renovate Latitude 36

**Insecticides:** Avoid stress from insects by performing insecticidal applications as needed:

- For any insecticide application, always read and follow label directions carefully
- Early identification and treatment of insect stress minimizes inputs and injury
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of seasonal pests like Army and Webworms
- Grubs can reduce quality if critical populations are reached
- Control Army and Webworms with Sevin, Orthene, Diazinon or Permethrin-based products
- Consult with local experts for insecticide recommendations
- If necessary, you can also reference the University of Florida's Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers and/or University of Georgia Turfgrass Pest Control Recommendations for Professionals for more detailed information

**Herbicides:** Proper mowing, irrigation and fertilization of Latitude 36 will reduce weed problems. If a weed problem persists:

- For any herbicide application, always read and follow label directions carefully
- Improper use of herbicides can severely damage or kill Latitude 36
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of seasonal weeds
- Identify the type of weed causing the problem before using any chemicals controls
- Latitude 36, like Common and Tifway 419 bermudagrass, is tolerant of many commonly used herbicides
- Consult with local experts for herbicide recommendations
- If necessary, you can also reference the University of Florida's Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers and/or University of Georgia Turfgrass Pest Control Recommendations for Professionals for more detailed information

**Fungicides:** Latitude 36 has shown resistance to most fungal problems and controls should be used only as needed:

- For any fungicide application, always read and follow label directions carefully
- Early identification and treatment of disease stress minimizes inputs and injury
- Make routine observations of the landscape being aware of unusual symptoms
- Consider a broad-spectrum fungicide application if predictable seasonal problems are noted
- Ask your Latitude 36 grower to apply fungicide 1-2 weeks prior to harvest during times of high, disease-inducing stress
- Consult with local experts for fungicide recommendations
- If necessary, you can also reference the University of Florida's Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers and/or University of Georgia Turfgrass Pest Control Recommendations for Professionals for more detailed information

**Irrigation:** Established Latitude 36 exhibits drought tolerance due to improved plant genetics and growth characteristics:

- Watering requirements are greatly dependent on soil type, season, geography and other factors
- As a general rule, Latitude 36 should receive .-1" of water once a week from irrigation or rainfall
- Ensure irrigation systems are working properly and covering all areas covered by Latitude 36
- Make routine observations of the landscape and learn the signs (i.e. wilting) that indicate when irrigation is required
- Shaded areas and heavy soils require less water than full-sun areas and sandy soils
- Encourage deep root growth by watering until the soil is moist to a depth of 3", shallow watering encourages shallow roots
- Infrequent deep watering maximizes drought resistance and tolerance

**Fertility:** Proper fertility practices will encourage healthy, disease and insect free Latitude 36:

- Perform soil tests to understand your soil type(s) and condition and best determine your specific fertility needs
  - Make routine observations and fertilize according to what the landscape tells you
  - Understand what and how much fertilizer you are applying
  - Avoid disease and insect inducing growth flushes by reducing Nitrogen rates
  - Improve color and limit growth surges by utilizing iron sources
  - Higher Nitrogen rates should only be applied in the spring, for injury recovery, or for planned "peaking" of Latitude 36
  - Apply lower rates of Nitrogen in the summer and fall
  - Recommended fertilizers include products lower in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphorous and Potassium.
- Understand which, and how much, fertilizer you are applying. Perform soil tests for best understanding of your local conditions and needs. Higher N rates should only be applied in the spring, for injury recovery, or for planned 'peaking'. Apply lower rates of N in summer and fall.