

# TURF EXHIBIT



The Garden's **Turf Exhibit** displays seven proven selections for maintaining a beautiful lawn in San Diego County with low to moderate water use. This exhibit provides a side-by-side comparison of the look and feel of each turf, as well as water needs, tolerance for heat, drought and traffic. For some of the selections, favorite applications for that type of turf is also provided. Included in the exhibit is the no-water choice of artificial turf. The Turf Exhibit was also the recipient of an Eagle Scout project using reclaimed pallet wood to create a rustic space-dividing wall. The dividing wall displays several wood stains and design layout examples suitable for DIY projects in any yard and demonstrates successful upcycling of materials frequently overlooked and discarded.

## TURF TYPES (as viewed from left to right)



### UC VERDE BUFFALO GRASS

#### *Buchloe dactyloides*

Excellent performer in the desert as well as at the coast with some winter dormancy. In temperate conditions, looks good year round and has low pollen rating. Low to medium water use for best results. Drought resistant: requires only about one fourth the water of traditional grass lawns. Traditional lawns need 1 - 1½ inches of water per week or about 30 - 45 minutes of watering with sprinklers. Low maintenance: growth is approximately 4 - 8 inches, requires mowing only once a year.

# TURF EXHIBIT (continued)



## ARTIFICIAL OR SYNTHETIC TURF

Synthetic turf saves on the cost and work of maintaining a lawn. With a wide range of styles and qualities to choose from, selection is based on the needs of the home owner and intended use. Synthetic turf is typically hotter, and a harder surface than living turf, although advancements have improved the feel. Benefits include: no water, low maintenance, most are safe for kids and pets, no need for chemicals, drought resistant, and looks good year round.



## SEASHORE PASPALUM

*Paspalum vaginatum*

“Platinum T.N.”

As a warm season grower it is an excellent choice for high traffic areas in the summer. Tolerant of saline soils and sea spray near the coast, as well as inland foothill conditions. It has a dense root system with an aggressive growth habit. Requires moderate water, fertilizer and frequent mowing. High tolerance for heat, and some shade. Recovers quickly from moderate wear during spring and summer.



## SAN DIEGO BENTGRASS

*Agrostis pallens*

Locally native, a deep-rooting, cool-season grass that looks and feels like Tall Fescue, but requires about half the water. This is a high performance turf used in golf courses. Partial summer dormancy, it grows rich deep green in winter through mid-spring. It is low-mow, low water use, and somewhat fire resistant turf. Withstands moderate foot traffic and when left to grow without mowing, creates the look of a natural meadow. Requires about half the water and maintenance of traditional turfs.

# TURF EXHIBIT (continued)



## JAPANESE KURAPIA GRASS

*Lippia nodiflora*

Developed in Japan, this is a low-water-use ground cover. Tolerant of different temperature ranges and soils, it was developed specifically for drought. Kurapia was one of the top three performers in a study of 19 turf grasses in drought conditions. Quick growth for ground cover, but is sterile so unwanted seeded do not occur. Blooms attract pollinators, but does not tolerate frost or heavy foot traffic. Watering less frequently and more deeply, increases Kurapia's drought tolerance.



## ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS

*Stenotaphrum secundatum*

Sun and shade tolerant, this warm season grass is adaptable to many conditions. Not an aggressive spreader, but has a rough texture and can become thatchy without proper maintenance. A good turf performer over many years. Requires moderate water for best results. However, it requires approximately one fourth less water than most typical lawns.



## ZOYSIA GRASS

*Zoysia matrella*

Zoysia grasses form extensive, velvety green mats, spreading vigorously. They can tolerate wide variations in temperature, sunlight, and water. Require less fertilizer than other turfs, and are excellent at repelling weeds throughout the year. They resist disease, are generally less vulnerable to insect and fungus damage, and hold up well under foot traffic. Popular because of their fine texture, soft feel, and low growth habit. Requires approximately half the water of a typical lawn.