

SPECIFICATION SHEET

TAHOMA 31[®]
BERMUDAGRASS

RATED #1 IN KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- TURF QUALITY:** Excellent. Rated #1 in NTEP.
- SPRING GREEN-UP:** Excellent. Rated #1 for spring green-up. Faster than all other varieties tested. Last to go dormant, first to break dormancy in spring
- COLD TOLERANCE:** Excellent. Rated #1 for winter survivability. Adaptable into Northern Transition Zone. Extremely low incidence of winterkill compared to all other bermudagrasses tested
- WEAR TOLERANCE:** Excellent. Rated #1 of all bermudagrasses tested
- LOW WATER USE:** Excellent. Rated #1 for low water use. Requires 18% less water than TifTuf
- SHADE:** Excellent. Rated #1 in shade for all bermudagrasses tested
- DIVOT RECOVERY:** Ranked #1 among clonal bermudagrass cultivars



SPECIFICATIONS

- VARIETY:** Hybrid Bermudagrass
- BOTANICAL NAME:** Cynodon dactylon x C. transvaalensis
- COLOR:** Dark green
- LEAF TEXTURE:** Fine. Similar to Latitude 36, Tifway, and TifTuf
- ESTABLISHMENT RATE:** Excellent. Faster than Latitude 36, TifTuf & Tifway 419
- DENSITY:** High. Suitable for high impact sports. Recovers quickly from divots and wear
- SOIL TYPE:** Adaptable to all soil types
- MOWING HEIGHT:** Highly adaptable. HOC of 0.125-inches to 2-inches
- MOWER TYPE:** Reel or rotary
- MAINTENANCE:** Medium
- DROUGHT RESISTANCE:** Excellent. Similar to TifTuf but statistically superior to the four standard cultivars
- HERBICIDE TOLERANCE:** No injury from Ronstar 2G, Strike Three
- SALT TOLERANCE:** Good. Better than Tifway 419
- DISEASE RESISTANCE:** Good. Similar to other bermudagrasses tested including TifTuf
- SEEDHEAD PRODUCTION:** Lower than Latitude 36, similar to Tifway, TifTuf, Patriot, and Celebration

SPECIFICATION NARRATIVE

Tahoma 31[®] Bermudagrass

Tahoma 31[®] bermudagrass is an interspecific F1 hybrid improved for high-quality turf use. The grass can only be vegetatively propagated due to its infertility. It was created in 2007, went through rigorous testing for more than 15 years at Oklahoma State University and at nearly two dozen other university sites around the United States through the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP), and was released for commercial production through Sod Production Services of Charles City, VA, on June 7, 2017. Tahoma 31 has been tested in two consecutive NTEP cohorts in 2013-2017, and 2019-2024. Major improvements in turfgrass performance and characteristics of Tahoma 31 bermudagrass, relative to other commercially-available cultivars including Latitude 36, Tifway, TifTuf, NorthBridge, Iron Cutter and Celebration, are described below.

USE: Tahoma 31 bermudagrass is ideally suited for use on sports fields, golf courses, and lawns. Its ability to withstand varied mowing heights, durability, cold tolerance and other attributes allow it to be planted successfully in high-traffic areas where lower water use, drought stress, shade, and cold would otherwise negatively affect other bermudagrasses.

QUALITY: Tahoma 31 is ranked #1, as the top performing group for turfgrass quality in NTEP tests. Tahoma 31 has a dark green leaf color, fine leaf blades, short internodes, and high turf density. The grass performs well in both the transition zone and the southern regions in the USA. In 2014, Tahoma 31 demonstrated an overall turfgrass quality equal to that of 'Latitude 36' but better than 'Patriot', 'Tifway', and 'Celebration'. In 2015, the overall turfgrass quality of Tahoma 31 was higher than that of the four standard cultivars.

COLD TOLERANCE: Tahoma 31 has exceptional winter survivability and excellent spring green up. Tahoma 31 pushes the boundaries of where bermudagrass can be grown, with successful survivability in traditionally cool-season regions such as Colorado, New York and Indiana. The grass will eventually go dormant, (a few weeks later than other bermudagrasses). For sports turf use especially, overseed or pigments may be applied to hold a green color all winter. The grasses' dense structure and exceptional tensile strength make for a firm base and excellent footing even when dormant.

The winter of 2013 - 2014 swept a polar vortex into the Midwest that created record low temperatures. Dr. Cale Bigelow, a professor of turf science and ecology at Purdue University, located in West Lafayette, Indiana, participated in the NTEP study. In a December 2019 article in Golf Course Management magazine, Dr. Bigelow was quoted as saying only 9 of 42 bermudagrasses tested survived with at least 50% ground cover by spring. Some 14 of the grasses completely died. By the end of the NTEP study, Tahoma 31 was rated by far with the greatest winter survivability in Indiana at only 4% winter kill. Mean scores in two states where winter survivability was measured, Indiana & Kentucky, confirmed Tahoma 31's top status in the three-year study period of 2014 - 2017.

LOW WATER USE: Once established, Tahoma 31 uses 18% less water than TifTuf. In tests that measured evapotranspiration (ET) rates (mm d⁻¹) under non-limiting soil moisture conditions in Oklahoma (Amgain et al., 2018, Crop Sci. 58:1409), Tahoma 31 fared best, while TifTuf used the most water.

TENSILE STRENGTH: Tahoma 31 has an excellent establishment rate, and superior sod tensile strength for commercial sod production and sports applications.

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DROUGHT RESISTANCE: Tahoma 31 has significantly improved drought resistance and water use efficiency. In NTEP, the field drought resistant trial performed at College Station, TX in 2015 reported Tahoma 31 was one of the top performers for turf quality and living ground coverage under drought conditions. In the test, Tahoma 31 had turf quality superior to that of the four standard cultivars. In a separate field trial conducted under well-watered conditions at Stillwater, OK, water use rates of Tahoma 31 were consistently the least among bermudagrasses tested including TifTuf, Celebration and Tifway over three years (2013-15).

WEAR TOLERANCE: Tahoma 31 has high traffic tolerance. Rated #1 for traffic tolerance as measured as turfgrass quality under traffic in NTEP's National Bermudagrass Test at Knoxville, TN, Tahoma 31 exhibits excellent traffic tolerance compared to all other bermudagrass cultivars tested.

MOWING HEIGHT: Tahoma 31 tolerates a wide range of mowing heights from 0.125-inches to 2-inches.

FERTILIZATION: Tahoma 31 is highly effective in its use and processing of Nitrogen fertilizer. It is suggested to apply N at 50% to 75% of the amount of N commonly applied to bermudagrass depending on soil conditions at the installation site. At establishment, it is recommended to apply 1 lb. of N per 1,000 sq.ft.

SALINITY: Tahoma 31 has improved salinity resistance over other cultivars tested.

SHADE: Tahoma 31 was rated #1 in shade tolerance in 2018 - 2019 testing at Oklahoma State University, with acceptable turf quality in up to 63% shade, with significantly better shade tolerance over TifTuf, Celebration, Tifway 419 and Latitude 36.

EARLY SPRING GREEN-UP: In NTEP tests from 2014 - 2017, Tahoma 31 ranked at the #1 top spot for early spring green-up among all vegetative bermudagrass cultivars tested in 16 states. Tahoma 31 greened up earlier than all bermudagrasses tested including Iron Cutter, TifTuf, Latitude 36, Tifway 419 and Celebration.

WEEDS: Field grown Tahoma 31 should be free of noxious weeds. Weed control in established turf is same as other bermudagrass. The label is the law.

HERBICIDE TOLERANCE: For post-emergence herbicides, SpeedZone does not cause browning issues that are normally observed on other popular varieties.

For more information and to read the research, visit Tahoma31.com

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