



## Cooperative Extension

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Stop By, Call, or Email  
329 Mast Road-Suite 115 Goffstown, NH  
1-877-398-4769  
answers@unh.edu

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### Zoysiagrass

We have received many inquiries about zoysiagrass for lawn purposes. Advertising which has created this interest has ranged from fair to misleading. It is not a miracle grass as some advertising would lead you to believe. It is a southern grass that we do not generally recommend for use in New Hampshire.

Here are some of its advantages and disadvantages.

#### Advantages of zoysiagrass

1. Zoysiagrass grows especially well during the hot summer months.
2. When established, it produces a thick, dense, cushiony turf.
3. Its thick growth prevents and, therefore, controls crabgrass and summer weeds.
4. It has a good green color during the hot summer months when the cool season grasses may become unattractive.
5. It withstands close mowing ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches).
6. It grows in most types of soil with proper management.
7. It withstands wear and tear during the summer.
8. It can survive severe heat stress.
9. It tolerates low fertility once it is well established.
10. It requires less water than most cool-season turf grasses.

#### Disadvantages of zoysiagrass

1. It loses its green color and becomes brown and straw colored about mid-October. It remains this color until about mid-May. In contrast, cool-season grasses usually have good green color about 8 months or longer.
2. Propagation by vegetative establishment, with stolons or sod plugs, is necessary. This method tends to be expensive and laborious. Seed is generally unavailable and impractical.
3. Zoysiagrass establishes slowly. Under ideal conditions, it may give cover in one season. Normally, 2 to 3 years is required.
4. Winter annual weeds tend to be more of a problem in zoysiagrass than in cool-season turf.
5. Once established, it is difficult to eliminate and may be a nuisance around plant beds.
6. Injury from heavy winter traffic, while zoysiagrass is dormant, can be severe.
7. When brown and straw colored, it is flammable and may be a fire hazard when allowed to grow tall near wooden buildings.
8. Since it is tough and grows densely, it requires more regular mowing in summer.
9. While it tends to have less disease than most turfgrasses, it is subject to rust and fairy ring. Fusarium blight has caused serious problems on occasion.
10. It is not satisfactory for shade.