419 Tifway Bermuda Maintenance Recommendations

419 Tif Bermuda Quick Tips:

- Tif Bermuda can be installed year-round, even during dormancy.
- Do not plant Tif in the shade, as it **requires 8+ hours of direct sunlight.**
- For the most part, our Tif should hold its block; however, Tif can be harder to handle during installation. You should use two hands while installing to minimize waste.
- Tif is susceptible to yellowing on your delivery day when temps are 80℉+. It will green back up quickly with prompt installation & water.
- Keep the soil underneath your new Tif saturated 6 inches deep until the roots establish into the soil.

Mow Frequently

- ➢ You can **mow your new Tif** using the **highest mow setting once** the **roots are established**, you **have** a little over **3 inches** of vertical **growth**, and the **seams are filling in.**
- ➢ **Mow** as often as **every 2-3 days to reach & maintain** a **height** no taller than **1 to 2 inches** without scalping the grass.
- ➢ Always observe the 1/3 rule, never removing more than one-third of the leaf tissue in a single mowing.
- ➢ Tif will become sparse, prickly, and discolored if you let it get too tall.

Fertilizing & Pre-Emergent Weed Control

- Avoid feast-or-famine. An overabundance of nitrogen can encourage lawn problems, such as Brown Patch fungal disease & grub worms.
- Bermuda needs 5-6 total pounds of nitrogen per thousand sq ft, per year.
- A weed-free yard is best achieved by maintaining a healthy, dense lawn through good cultural practices & healthy soil.
- Pre-emergent herbicides should be included in every lawn care schedule.
- Use post-emergent herbicides only as needed.

MONTH	FERTILIZER & SOIL BUILDING	PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDE
FEB-MARCH	Apply a general 15-5-10 fertilizer to encourage spring green-up.	Apply pre-emergent when soil temperatures reach 55℉ for 2-3 consecutive days.
LATE MARCH-EARLY APRIL	Apply slow-release 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer with iron & sulfur. Recommended fertilizer ratios: 19-5-10; 19-4-10; 15-5-10.	NONE
MAY-EARLY JUNE	NONE	Apply 2nd application of a pre-emergent herbicide.
LATE JUNE-EARLY JULY	Apply organic slow-release fertilizer with iron & sulfur. Do not apply synthetic, fast-release nitrogen during high temperatures.	NONE
JULY-SEPT	Apply MicroLife Brown Patch to condition the soil & help prevent fungal diseases.	NONE
OCT- EARLY NOV	In the absence of soil test recommendations, apply all-purpose fertilizer, such as Lesco 15-5-10	Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent spring weeds.
NOV	Apply a high phosphorus winterizing fertilizer for southern grasses to help with winter hardiness.	Apply pre-emergent when soil temps drop below 70°F.
DEC-JAN	Apply a bio-stimulant with micro-nutrients to increase microbial activity & encourage healthy soil building.	NONE

Post-Emergent Herbicides

Be sure to positively identify the target weed before choosing a post-emergent herbicide. This will ensure proper herbicide selection & successful control. This Turfgrass Weeds photo guide by AggieTurf should help identify common weeds in your lawn. However, a broad-spectrum **post-emergent herbicide**, such as Bayer's Celsius WG, is safe for Bermuda varieties and will **target** the **most common grassy & broadleaf weeds**. For **nutsedge**, Sedgehammer+ works best.

That said, generally, the products to use depend on the target weeds, level of infestation, and ambient temperatures. **Use caution**, and **always read the label**. Most **herbicides are temperature-sensitive**. Contact a lawn care professional or your local ag extension for assistance if you are unsure about the type of weed or product to use. To prevent herbicide resistance, you should rotate MOAs (modes of action).

Fungal Disease & Pest Control

Many common lawn problems present the same way, and the underlying issue is often misdiagnosed. This flowchart will help you troubleshoot & determine the cause for a decline in your lawn so that you can take the correct action quickly before the problem grows out of control.

Further, lawn problems usually point to an underlying issue, such as over or under-fertilizing, mowing, watering, etc. Aim to prevent these issues through well-timed, proper cultural practices. Use soil-building bio-stimulants to improve soil health, increase beneficial microbes & fungi, and help prevent lawn problems.

Chemical treatments can be damaging to the environment & the health of your soil. They should be used sparingly & responsibly. However, they are sometimes necessary if the lawn becomes infected or invaded by fungal diseases or deleterious pests. For **fungal diseases**, **use** systemic, broad-spectrum fungicides, such as **azoxystrobin** or

propiconazole. For **lawn pests**, such as fire ants, cutworms, fall armyworms, grub worms, and chinch bugs, **use** insecticides like **cypermethrin**, **permethrin**, and **zeta-cypermethrin**. **Rotate fungicides & insecticides from different IRAC/FRAC Groups** to avoid resistance in the future.