

Bahia Grass, *Seashore Paspalum*

GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid
Propagation	: layer
Maintenance	: high

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: very high (7500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -6°C

SHAPE

Type	: grasses
Height	: 0.05 m-0.6 m
Spread	: 0.1 m-0.5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: light brown
Size	: 6 cm
Period	: April - May

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: caryopsis
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Bahia Grass or Seashore Paspalum is a warm season turf grass, native to South America and growing in tropical areas throughout the world. It is a very useful ornamental lawn grass for Arriyadh. Spreading by rhizomes, Paspalum grows even where drainage is a problem. The leaf blades are flat, 5 mm wide and greyish-green. It requires full sun, sandy soils and ample irrigation, even though it has some drought tolerance. Paspalum does not produce highly viable seed, and therefore must be propagated vegetatively by stolons, rhizomes. It has the highest salt tolerance of all turf grasses. Regular leaching will alleviate the buildup of salts in the soil. Research has indicated that saline water could be used as a selected herbicide. Paspalum will also tolerate recycled effluent water, as opposed to Bermuda grass, which begins to suffer as salts build up. In lawns, it has high shoot densities and is therefore more competitive against weeds than other grasses. Few pests attack Paspalum. It requires much less nitrogen than other warm season grasses and is tolerant of a wide range of pH. Paspalum is shade- and drought-tolerant. It can be overseeded with cool season grasses and mown very closely. Paspalum is a useful plant in sand dune stabilisation. It is, however sensitive to cold temperatures, becoming dormant at 10°C. There are several varieties of *Paspalum vaginatum*. Environmentally, Paspalum requires less water, fertiliser and pesticides than other warm season turf grasses, but needs the usual maintenance procedures for lawns.

