

*Zoysia*, Japanese Grass

GENERAL

- Vigour : slow-growing  
Humidity : semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid  
Propagation : direct sowing, cuttings  
Maintenance : high

CONDITIONS

- Urban climate : resistant  
Dessication : vulnerable  
Stagnant water : vulnerable  
Irrigation : medium  
Salinity/ppm : high (5000 ppm)  
Hardiness : -21°C

SHAPE

- Type : grasses  
Height : 0.03 m-0.15 m  
Spread : 0.1 m-0.3 m  
Foliage : evergreen

FLOWER

- Colour : brown  
Size : 6 cm  
Period : June - July

FRUIT

- Type of fruit : caryopsis

*Zoysia*, sometimes called Japanese lawn grass or Korean lawn grass, is a species of perennial, creeping grass native to Asia and Australia. It is widely used as a groundcover and is useful in Arriyadh in places where lawnmowing is not possible. *Z. japonica* is a coarse-textured and cold-hardy species with stiff, pointed leaf blades, which are smooth with occasional hairs near the base. The inflorescence is a short, terminal raceme on a spike. Growing well in moderately shaded locations, it tolerates soils from sands to clays, both acid and alkaline. *Zoysia* is salt-tolerant and extremely drought-tolerant, but becomes straw-coloured when very dry or after hard frost, although it turns green again with irrigation and higher temperatures. *Zoysia* requires regular irrigation during the summer. During dry winter months, *Zoysia* needs only occasional watering. *Zoysia* is propagated from seed, is available commercially as turf, and can also be established by planting plugs; the best time for planting is early summer. It can form dense mats, and sometimes makes little hillocks and even mounds that grow over low features. Used on golf courses, *Zoysia* also stops erosion on slopes and repels weeds. It makes a good lawn, but is not recommended for football fields. Sometimes chlorotic on calcareous soil, *Zoysia* should be fertilised monthly. *Zoysia* is relatively free of serious pests, although white grubs may attack turf: brown patch, rust and leaf spot diseases can cause problems, and fungicides may be needed on intensively maintained lawns.

