

Somerfield Estate Keysborough Nature Strip Lawn Care Guideline

This guideline has been developed to assist maintaining Kikuyu Grass nature strips.

The nature strips throughout the Somerfield Estate are established using a Kikuyu based turf and seed, this variety has been nominated by Council for a number of reasons. Kikuyu Grass is drought tolerant and requires little supplementary irrigation once fully established. It is one of the more resilient turf species suitable for residential use.

Mowing

- Kikuyu grass should be mown between 25-50mm in height, mowing too low will stress the grass and promote weed invasion.
- Catch and remove clippings for use in compost bins or worm farms. Do not place clippings around the base of trees as this will rot the trunk and lead to the failure of the tree.

Watering

- Under average climatic conditions watering twice per week (October – April) will assist establishing a strong Kikuyu lawn. During the peak heat of summer additional watering will be of benefit.
- Deep water (rather than sprinkle) to encourage a deep and vigorous root system
- It is ideal to water in the early morning or late afternoon.
- Do not over water, the lawn should be allowed to dry out between watering.

Fertilising

- Kikuyu Grass will benefit from fertilising in November and March.
- Use of an organic based fertiliser such as Dynamic Lifter or similar will promote healthy growth of the grass as well as assisting the Soil Biology & Biochemistry.
- Synthetic fertilisers will provide a faster green up however will require more mowing. Continued use or overuse of synthetic fertilisers has been proven to be detrimental to soils.

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