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Student Essay

Scholarly Paragraph: Centipedegrass

By Jay Chapman



Centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*) has become the most commonly used turf grass for home lawns in the Southeastern United States. This grass was discovered in the belongings of USDA plant explorer, Frank Meyer, who disappeared while on a trip to China in the year 1916. Centipedegrass is most likely so widely used because it can grow

in low fertile soil, and therefore results in very minimal maintenance. Due to these factors, Centipedegrass has been given the nicknames, "lazy man's grass or poor man's grass" (Polomski, Shaughnessy, & Hale, 2003). Over fertilizing Centipedegrass to a dark green color, reduces how tolerant the grass is to cold temperatures, which will likely increase the odds of maintenance problems in the future. Centipede grass is fairly tolerant to the amount of shade that it receives, which is a great characteristic for a turf grass to possess because prolonged shade reduces carbohydrate levels in plants and results in a weak plant (McCarty & Miller, 2010). Therefore, if a lot of sunlight is not required, a healthy plant can still be produced with less sun. Centipedegrass can be established from seed or sod, and is very drought tolerant. With this being said, Centipedegrass should be irrigated during stressful drought periods. It is also recommended that Centipedegrass should be kept between 1 ½ to 2 inches tall.

Citations

Polomski, B. Shaughnessy, D., & Hale, T. (2003). *Centipedegrass (HGIC 1209)*. Clemson University, SC, Clemson Extension Home & Garden Information Center. McCarty, L. & Miller, G. (2010 January 11). *Winter-kill and responding to it now*. Retrieved from North Carolina State University, Turffiles Center Web site: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Alerts.aspx#004989>

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