

TifTuf Bermudagrass Thrives at Atlanta Botanical Garden

The great lawn in the heart of the Atlanta Botanical Garden stands up to traffic with drought-tolerant TifTuf™ Bermudagrass.



The Great Lawn with TifTuf offers views of the Conservatory and Atlanta's skyline.

During summer 2016, the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Great Lawn received a makeover with drought- and traffic-tolerant TifTuf™ Bermuda grass.

As the entryway to the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory, the Great Lawn hosts numerous events in the garden throughout the year. From summer concerts in the garden to September's Garden of Eden Ball, the lawn endures foot traffic and damage for several months.

"The existing lawn had

sustained years of events and no longer looked the way we wanted it to," said Amanda Bennett, manager of display gardens at Atlanta Botanical Garden.

“ [TifTuf] has also been easier for water management, even in this hot summer. ”

Super-Sod of Atlanta replaced the TifSport Bermuda grass on the old lawn with TifTuf Bermuda grass during May 2016. Since installation, the TifTuf grass on the Great Lawn has weathered the heat and traffic of a summer in the garden.

"The rebound time with TifTuf seems to be a bit quicker. It has also been easier for water management, even in this hot summer," Bennett said.

Since 1992, the University of Georgia has been conducting

tests on TifTuf with the research name “DT-1.” UGA’s research found that TifTuf used 38 percent less water than the standard Tifway 419 Bermuda grass. Traffic tolerance research found that TifTuf maintained its visual appeal better than Celebration and Tifway Bermudagrasses after 10 weeks of intensive traffic tests.

“I’m impressed so far,” Bennett said. “[TifTuf]’s rooted in quickly, looked healthy from virtually the day it went down and has been easy to maintain.”

Visitors can view TifTuf and the Great Lawn alongside the Garden’s seasonal exhibits, the most recent of which have been holiday musical lights and blown glass sculptures by Dale Chihuly.

The mission of the Atlanta Botanical Garden is to develop and maintain plant collections for display, education, research, conservation and enjoyment. The Garden is located at 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE in Midtown, between 14th Street and Monroe Drive. The Garden is open from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Sunday. Admission is \$21.95 adults, \$15.95 children 3-12, free to children under 3 and Garden members.

For more information visit atlantabg.com or phone 404-876-5859.

TIFTUF[™]
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

The Comeback Grass

A lawn can be an entity that adds value to a home. However, the pride and joy of a pristine lawn can be lost if the lush landscape can’t stand up to occasional foot traffic. Little feet and big paws trampling on front and back lawns alike can eventually take their toll. But what is more taxing than everyday recreational use of a lawn during the steaming summer heat? The crowding of hundreds of people onto a lawn for some dancing.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden’s TifTuf Bermudagrass Great Lawn withstood this traffic only a few months after its May 2016 sod installation. In September 2016, the Garden of Eden Ball took place on the lawn under an expansive tented ballroom. Events like this require weeks of preparation and strategic tear-down timing. Therefore, the tent covered the lawn for 10 days during the baking heat of Georgia’s fall 2016 drought.

After the event, the lawn suffered with yellowish-brown patches of turf indicating where the tent had once been. With fall weather beginning to set in, the likelihood of recovery before dormancy was unlikely. However, TifTuf’s quick recovery time resulted in healthy grass three weeks after the tent’s removal.

See the recovery process in the photos below.



September 28 — The yellow grass indicates where a tent rested on the lawn for 10 days.



October 19 — Three weeks later, the grass recovered and was preparing to enter fall dormancy.

