

# TifTuf Bermudagrass to Conserve Water in ReAlta Energy-Saving Community

ReAlta solar community is Charlotte's first to exclusively feature TifTuf drought-tolerant Bermudagrass.

As the cost of living increases and natural resources are depleted, there is a constant search for methods to save money and the environment. ReAlta, the first fully solar community in Charlotte, North Carolina, will help its homeowners conserve both.

ReAlta's homes are designed to feature low-profile solar panels to save homeowners thousands of dollars in energy costs. In an effort to continue with the theme of conservation, ReAlta also committed to be the first Charlotte neighborhood to exclusively landscape with TifTuf drought-tolerant Bermudagrass.

"Our goal with ReAlta was to build a community of what we call '21st century houses.' In our conception these are homes that are solid- and well-built, economical, electronically smart, efficient and contemporary in design," said Marc Bickler, owner of Chelsea Building Group LLC, the company behind the ReAlta community concept. "We believe that TifTuf hits the mark as a product that requires less water and is specifically selected to thrive in our climate."

Developed and tested over



TifTuf covers the back lawns of ReAlta's newly constructed 21st century homes. (Image by Chelsea Building Group.)

the past two decades at the University of Georgia, TifTuf uses 38 percent less water than standard Tifway Bermuda. Whether in times of drought or normal rainfall, the water savings for homeowners is significant.

"[ReAlta homeowners] will have the satisfaction of knowing that they're doing something to reduce their carbon footprint and limit the amount of water they take from the Catawba," Bickler said.

The first bright-green truckload of TifTuf Bermuda arrived at ReAlta on Tuesday, Nov. 22. National Turfgrass Evaluation Program research at universities across the U.S. indicates that TifTuf maintains

its green color later into the fall months and greens up

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earlier in the spring than other Bermudagrasses.

The calendar-friendly curb appeal of TifTuf will highlight the modern style of



ReAlta's homes. Buyers in the neighborhood can choose from five different home designs, all of which include solar capabilities, low scores on the Home Energy Rating System index and low-flow plumbing.

Three different designs of model homes are ready for viewing. Each of these homes currently boasts a front and back lawn with TifTuf Bermudagrass from Super-Sod in Charlotte. Chelsea Building Group is a Charlotte-based company that focuses on building 21st century homes. All of their builds are well-designed and engineered and economical to operate. They have built their business on the premise of making the effort behind the walls to ensure their homes "live even better than they look." ReAlta is located at 1519 Rama Road, Charlotte, NC 28211. Find more information about ReAlta and Chelsea Building Group at [ChelseaBuildingGroup.com](http://ChelseaBuildingGroup.com) or by contacting Jeff Conger at 704-517-0782.



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**TIFTUF**<sup>TM</sup>  
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

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Top clockwise: One of five conservation-focused home designs awaits its owner. Pallets of green TifTuf arrive on Nov. 22. Super-Sod delivers TifTuf to ReAlta. The ReAlta sign welcomes visitors and construction crews. Freshly laid TifTuf covers back lawns.

