

Tough, New Grasses

After speaking at the Rotary Club, a man approached me about a new type of sod he planted. It is a sod developed by Texas Tech named Tech Turf by Turffalo. This grass is a buffalograss. Texas Turf likes full sun but can tolerate 50% shade. It will stay green with as little as 2 inches of water a month. It does go dormant if it has no water but will green back up once it receives moisture again. Tech Turf spreads only by surface runners. Many other grasses, such as Bermuda grass, also spread underneath the ground with rhizomes. These rhizomes are what make Bermuda so difficult to keep out of flowerbeds and gardens. Since Tech Turf only spreads by runners, anywhere you edge it is as far as it will travel. It is a slow growing grass with growth height to 4 inches so it requires little mowing and goes dormant in the winter. To plant Tech Turf costs about \$50 for a 72 square foot area.

Another new grass is Shadow Turf developed by Texas Tech and Mark Ivey of Lubbock. Shadow Turf is a variety of zoysiagrass. It grows in areas with 80-90% shade as well as in full sun and stays green with as little as 4 inches of water per month. Since it is a warm season grass, it goes dormant in the wintertime. It is a durable grass that can tolerate traffic and grows densely thus chokes out weeds. It is a slow-establishing grass and is usually best planted after the last freeze. The cost of Shadow Turf is about \$90 per 72 square feet of area.

Check out their website at <http://www.turffalo.com/> for more in-depth information. The website has an excellent comparison chart that compares these two grasses with other common landscape grasses. With winter is on its way, now is the time for planning for the spring and a little research can save a lot of time and money.