

# BENEFITS OF TURF

There are many benefits to planting grass in landscapes. Proper soil preparation, planting, and routine maintenance are crucial to maximize these benefits.

**Aesthetics** - Turfgrass is versatile and functional. A well maintained landscape can increase property value and create a sense of community pride. It complements trees and shrubs and is ideal for foot traffic, because it withstands trampling more than any other type of plant.

**Recreation Surface** - Grass provides an excellent recreational surface for outdoor activities. It is a low cost safety cushion for sport participants and spectators, a healthy surface for picnics, yard games and other outdoor activities, as well as a delight to walk on. It is also an ideal surface for dogs and other pets.



**Reduces Runoff and Soil Erosion** - Grass is one of the most effective plant materials to reduce runoff and prevent soil erosion. When it rains or when we water, pollutants are moved into the thatch and surface soil levels where they are trapped, preventing them from washing to our water systems. With up to 90% of the weight of a grass plant in its roots, it is no wonder that grass is a very efficient erosion prevention device.

**Cooling Effect** - Research shows that turfgrass can be up to 30 degrees F cooler than concrete or blacktop and up to 14 degrees cooler than bare soil. The cooling effect of an average lawn can equal over 8 tons of air conditioning (the average home air conditioner produces 4 tons). The cooling effect is the result of the evaporation of water within the green leaves. Grass surfaces reduce temperature extremes by absorbing the sun's heat during the day and by slowly releasing it in the evening, thus moderating temperatures.

**Absorbs Dust and Other Air Pollution** - With its extensive and intertwined system of leaves and roots, grass surfaces around the world are estimated to trap some 12 million tons of dust and dirt from the air annually. Many activities in our lives create poisonous gases such as carbon dioxide, ozone or methane. Grass requires carbon dioxide to survive. As it takes this gas out of the atmosphere it replaces it with oxygen. Grass is such an efficient carbon dioxide-oxygen converter that an area just 50 feet by 50 feet generates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four.

