

The Sunbelt Times

The latest in sod news, tips & tricks, and more.

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Hybrid Bermuda

Hybrid Bermudas are some of our favorite varieties to install. The options are endless when it comes to what type of Bermuda you're looking for, but overall, Bermudas share the following characteristics: grey-green coloring, short, rough blades, deep root system, drought tolerance, and durability for foot traffic. These key characteristics make them a top contender for athletic fields, which is where we see them used most frequently. There are sub-varieties of hybrid bermudas that set themselves apart from their competition. Some of the more popular local options include: TifTuf, Celebration, Bimini, TifGrand, and the list goes on. Our personal favorite is TifTuf based on its fine texture, bright coloring, soft touch, dense growth, and durability.

Most of the varieties that thrive in our local areas are grown to adapt to our weather. Since we typically have warm weather year-round for the most part, most of our sod options don't tolerate the cold well. As such, you can typically plan for your grass to begin losing color and going "dormant" once the weather is steadily below 60 degrees Fahrenheit at night. With proper care, your sod will come back once the weather warms up to normal temperatures on a regular basis. It's important to note that once your sod browns out, the brown blades won't turn green again - it will take time for new green growth to come back through before you notice it greening back up.

How to Tell When Your Sod is Dormant



Sand Based Sod vs. Muck Based Sod

As a whole, the soil found in Florida is predominately sand-based. Muck soil is found near Lake Okeechobee & south into the Everglades. Based on our 25+ years' worth of professional experience, we've found sand based sod to be the best choice for our service areas (predominately Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Highlands, Desoto, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties). We find it's always best to keep a living organism (such as sod) in the same environment that it is used to and has thrived in. For instance: you would not want to take muck based sod and install it in our sandy soil that we have here locally. While the muck based sod would likely live, it wouldn't be as healthy as sand based sod, as its roots would not want to extend into the sandy soil that is on-site - they would want to stay shallow in the nutrient-rich muck base that it has grown accustomed to. A healthy stand of sod has a deep root system which provides health and durability over time. Based on this information, the winner of this great debate is as simple as: the best type of sod base is dependent on what type of soil is presently on the ground where you will be installing sod.



Sunbelt Sod

COOKBOOK



APPLE CINNAMON PULL APART BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can large "Grands" biscuits
- 2 medium honeycrisp apples, finely chopped
- 1/4 c brown sugar
- 1 T butter
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1/4 t nutmeg
- pinch of salt
- 1 c confectioners sugar
- 2 T milk
- 1/2 t vanilla

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit & prepare 9x5" loaf pan with cooking spray
- Add apples, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg & salt to a medium sauce pan set to medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally until apples are tender but not mushy. Turn off heat & let cool.
- Using a sharp knife, slice each biscuit in half, horizontally. Spoon about 1 T of apple filling onto each half. Stack 4 biscuit halves on top of each other.
- Place stacks in loaf pan, making sure that each end has biscuits without filling touching the end of pan. Cover with foil & bake for 30 min. Remove foil & continue to bake for an additional 5-8 minutes until top of bread is golden brown. Cool for 5 minutes, then remove from pan.
- Whisk together confectioners sugar, milk & vanilla, then drizzle over bread.

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