

The Sunbelt Times

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

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What is Sprigging?

Sprigging is defined as the planting of small plant pieces. Once harvested & spread in the project area, these little pieces will eventually fill in over time if cared for properly & grow into a beautiful fully sodded area.

Why sprig when you can sod? Sprigging tends to be much more cost-effective up front than sodding, but sodding provides more immediate results with less downtime & long term maintenance.

Why sprig when you can seed? Seeding will grow in more uniformly & is more cost-effective than sprigging. That being said, not all varieties of grass can be seeded.

Most sod farms start their fields with sprigs & take a lot of care to grow them into the beautiful fields that are able to be harvested in sod form.

Updates in Sod Fertilizer Recommendations

The current sod fertilizer recommendations from UF/IFAS date back to 2007. Thanks to funding received from 2023 state legislature, UF/IFAS is working to update their fertilizer recommendations. This became a critical need after the 2020 Clean Waterways Act (SB 712) passed which requires producers to report annual applications of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Ag Water Policy. The funds that were appropriated for this research were directed to be used for “nutrient management research... to result in recommendations on best management practices for applying fertilizer to the crop to achieve maximum yield and quality goals of growers while minimizing nutrient inefficiencies in the environment. This is a one-year project, funded at roughly \$200,000.



Athletic Field Sod Installation

A lot of people don't realize the labor difference between installing sod on a normal day-to-day install such as in a yard, in the right of way, a pond, or swale, compared to an athletic field. Installing Bermuda as a whole is a little different than Bahia or St. Augustine, let alone ensuring a perfect install to prevent divots, dips, or other imperfections that could be a liability to athletes. Big rolls are the preferred & only great recommended way of installing sod on athletic fields, as they provide a more seamless install which help to reduce imperfections on its own. In addition to this, the netting must be removed from the back of the rolls as the rolls are being installed. All in all, a good athletic field installation comes down to quality sod, an experienced install crew, and a company with the right equipment to get the job done. Outside of installation, it's important to have quality prep work done & correct aftercare & maintenance to ensure your field stays beautiful & healthy.



Sunbelt Sod

COOKBOOK



BANANA PUDDING COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c unsalted butter (room temp)
- 3/4 c brown sugar
- 1/4 c granulated sugar
- 1 package banana cream instant pudding mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 c all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 c chopped vanilla wafer cookies
- 1 1/2 c white chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper
- Using a mixer, beat together butter & sugars until creamy. Add in pudding mix, eggs & vanilla extract. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Stir in the vanilla wafer cookies & white chocolate chips.
- Drop cookie dough by rounded tablespoons onto prepared baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes, or until slightly golden around the edges & set. Remove cookies from oven & let cool on baking sheet for two minutes then transfer to a cooling rack to cool completely.

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