



TURFCO INSTALLATION TEAM AT MENANGLE PARK

Versatile, Adaptable and Low Maintenance

HOW AUSTRALIAN TURF PRODUCER TURFCO IS UTILISING ZOYSIA AS A SOLUTION FOR UNORTHODOX SPACES

Versatile, adaptable, low-maintenance, and highly durable, Zoysia grasses offer a lush, striking aesthetic. With these exceptional qualities, they have become a popular choice for both residential lawns and commercial landscapes.

Due to these excellent qualities, Zoysia grasses are being utilised in innovative applications and locations previously overlooked for turf.

Over the past 10 months, Turfco, a leading turf supplier on the NSW South Coast, has had the privilege of supplying two premium Zoysia varieties, Sir Grange Zoysia and Zoysia Australis, for a range of distinctive commercial projects.

Sir Grange Zoysia and Local Council Involvements

With resounding domestic success in home lawns and commercially with golf courses

since its release in 2017, Sir Grange Zoysia has extended its appeal by becoming a favourable option for unsuspecting areas, particularly with local councils.

Grasses such as Kikuyu have traditionally been the preferred choice for government bodies and councils, primarily due to budget constraints, with Kikuyu offering upfront cost-effectiveness. However, the ongoing maintenance required for Kikuyu, accompanied by uncertainty about whether it is the most suitable grass for a given environment, can lead to long-term challenges in both maintenance and performance, resulting in significant ongoing expenses and resource demands.

There are many situations where Kikuyu can be the right grass choice. However, while it may be appealing from a budget perspective, its selection often reflects a lack of awareness about the benefits that

alternative turf varieties can offer. When matched to the right environment, these alternatives can deliver advantages that outweigh the initial cost, resulting in greater long-term savings.

For turf growers and suppliers, there is always a focus on ensuring the right grass is selected and placed in the right location, ultimately benefiting all parties and contributing to long-term success.

Reframing local councils' perspectives on turf has been a key goal for Turfco over the past five years. Turfco have successfully achieved this by hosting various educational events, including farm visits for council and local government agency members, as well as local landscapers.

In 2021, Turfco supplied Shellharbour City Council with Sir Grange Zoysia for a local roundabout. Previously, the roundabout





featured high-maintenance plants that required frequent upkeep, leading to significant expenses for traffic control and posing safety risks for both workers and commuters.

To address these challenges, the council selected Sir Grange Zoysia to drastically reduce maintenance needs and enhance safety by minimising the need for workers to access the roundabout. This also helped limit traffic disruptions. The success of this project has led the council to incorporate Sir Grange Zoysia in multiple subsequent projects where plant maintenance costs were excessive.

In early 2023, Turfco supplied Shoalhaven City Council with Sir Grange Zoysia for the Bike Pump Track at Boongaree National Park. The original specification called for Kikuyu grass; however, upon completion of the track, the council realised that the steep embankments made mowing unsafe for maintenance crews.

As a result, Turfco was engaged to install Sir Grange Zoysia, allowing the area to remain unmown. Despite the challenges of a poor growing medium and heavily compacted soil necessary for maintaining the track's structure, Sir Grange Zoysia has thrived. In the two years since its installation, the track has required virtually no maintenance, significantly reducing labour and resource demands—an outcome that has been highly beneficial for the grounds team managing the large complex.

Building on the council's success with Sir Grange in roundabouts, in March 2025, the turf has now been installed in median strips along busy roads that were previously overgrown and difficult to maintain with Kikuyu.

By transitioning to Sir Grange Zoysia, these areas will now remain completely unmown, significantly enhancing kerb appeal while drastically reducing maintenance requirements along these busy stretches of road.

Sir Grange Zoysia at Menangle Park

In mid-2023, Turfco hosted a farm visit attended by Leigh Trevitt, a Landscape Advisor for Transport NSW. Leigh had taken the initiative to attend several information days and had seen the successes of unmown Sir Grange first-hand.

Bridge Abutments and other steep areas like this always pose issues to Landscape Designers and maintenance crews as they are very close to the highway and are quite steep and unpredictable to work on, posing several logistics and safety challenges when it comes to the installation and maintenance of a covering surface. With these challenges, there is also a high maintenance cost associated with these sites.

Following on from previous discussions and the site visits, Leigh had presented the Menangle Park Bridge Abutment as a

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potential site to use Sir Grange Zoysia. The site was ideal; it had a steep batter that was going to be expensive and difficult to maintain, and it was very prominent with a lot of eyes on it, so, it was a necessity to be aesthetically pleasing.

Joe Rogers from Lawn Solutions Australia closely worked with Leigh and his colleague Jason on an installation method using bio-degradable turf pegs and went over an establishment plan to ensure Sir Grange had the ability to establish a root system to maximise the chance of success.

In the winter of 2024, Turfco supplied and installed approximately 1,790m² of Sir Grange Zoysia at the embankment beside the Hume Highway at Menangle Park. This project was completed intermittently over

a 3-week period, with the delivery and installation taking approximately 4 full days. The project was unlike anything the Turfco Team has ever worked on in their nearly 40 years of business, with harnesses required to lay the turf across the steep surface.

Almost one year on and the site has been a success, thanks to the diligence from Transport NSW in ensuring the Sir Grange had enough irrigation to establish and the foresight from Leigh to use Sir Grange in this instance. Sir Grange is perfect for this site as it has greatly reduced the need for maintenance, has provided an environmentally friendly solution and it looks fantastic.

Zoysia Australis

Zoysia Australis is the latest, premium turf variety introduced to the Australian

market by the Lawn Solutions Australia Network in early 2023. Despite being new to the industry, Zoysia Australis is already experiencing strong adoption in both residential and commercial applications. Turfco, an LSA member, commenced offering this variety to their customers in October 2023.

As a premium alternative to standard grasses like Kikuyu, Zoysia Australis stands out for its versatility, shade tolerance, low maintenance requirements, durability, and medium-textured appearance.

Zoysia Australis at Kurnell – McConnell Dowell Corporation

Between mid-September 2024 to February 2025, Turfco supplied and installed 7,750m² of Zoysia Australis to the



McConnell Dowell Kamay Ferry Wharves site compound at the Kurnell National Park.

Initially, the project specified an older variety of Zoysia japonica; however, upon Turfco's recommendation, the original contractor agreed to trial Zoysia Australis as a superior alternative. Turfco is confident that Zoysia Australis will perform better in terms of wear and climate making it more suitable for the project. Turfco has seen increasing interest in transitioning from older Zoysia's to Zoysia Australis, with all feedback so far being highly positive.

McConnell Dowell required an incremental demobilisation to facilitate a smooth handover to the public, with Turfco carrying out the turf installation in stages. The site, having been a construction zone for nearly 24 months, featured varying ground conditions;

some areas had ideal sandy soil, and others had compacted, uneven soil from constant vehicle traffic. Throughout the discharge process, Turfco made multiple turf deliveries and site visits to ensure the installation was completed as construction areas were finished and ready for final touches.

When asked about the selected turf variety, Zoysia Australis, Luke from McConnell Dowell expressed complete satisfaction, along with gratitude towards Turfco and their services.

"My experience using Turfco has been excellent, they are receptive to short notice changes to schedules and quantities and have been able to suit our needs with a changing project deadline and a busy demobilisation from the site.

The delivered Zoysia Australis turf looks and feels fantastic. It is by far the softest grass that I have come across. It quickly took hold on sandy soil and looked very healthy with some minor attention given to it in its first weeks.

There was not a single roll of turf provided that was not fit for purpose or looked out of place. The installation team required little instruction and was devoted to getting their job done quickly and safely.

I would absolutely recommend Turfco for the supply and installation of their Zoysia grasses." – Luke, McConnell Dowell