



The Plant Professionals

## Floritam St. Augustine Grass

### **DEFINITION:**

Floritam is generally the best St. Augustine for South Texas. It is resistant to SAD virus. It is vigorous, fast spreading, with better color. It is more tolerant of drought, and is more resistant to brown patch fungus, take all patch fungus, downy mildew and gray leaf spot disease.

### **CALCULATING AMOUNT OF GRASS NEEDED:**

For Full Sod Carpet:

Length of area (feet) x width of area (feet) = total square feet.

Total square feet  $\div$  9 = total square yards

For Strip Sodding with Full Blocks of Sod Laid in Strips:

5' apart (on center), multiply total square yards of area x .30 to get amount of sod needed

### **LAWN INSTALLATION AND CARE:**

Full Sod Carpet or Full Sod Strips

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** Hoe – Garden Rake – Machete (or ax if you already have one)

**PREPARATION:** Rake out sticks, stones and level as you wish. The ground need not be tilled unless it has become excessively compacted by vehicles or foot traffic.

With your hoe, edge all curbs and concrete so that the soil is 1" below the concrete. This is the most important step you will take in preparation. Not only will your lawn have a much better look with no dirt edges raised above the concrete, but the sod, once butted to the concrete, will not slide when you have a rain and instead will hold the soil from washing out. A light application of Milorganite or Gill Lawn and Garden Fertilizer to the ground before laying sod will result in faster establishment, especially on sand.

### **INSTALLATION:**

Full Sod – In the front, begin at the corner of the curb and driveway, working out toward the property line. The sod should be butted together but not overlapped. You may lay the sod right over many weeds. It will smother them out. Johnson Grass, Nut grass and Blue Stem (crabgrass) however, should be sprayed with Round-Up herbicide a week before laying sod.

*Stripping* – We recommend always stripping beginning along curb with particular emphasis on the hoe preparation (see preparation section). Run parallel strips all the way up to the house. Run strips perpendicular to slope in steeply sloped areas to prevent erosion. The distance apart is strictly up to you and how much you want to spend. Of course, the closer you put the sod together, the quicker you will get full coverage.

*Plugging* – Cut sod into 4"x 4" or 6"x 6" blocks, dig a hole for each piece just a little deeper than the thickness of the plug, set the plug in the hole and sprinkle dirt around and just a little on top of plug. Floritam plugs are a good way to slowly restore a poor quality lawn to better health and vigor at a lower cost and labor input.

**WATERING:** As soon as the sod is installed, it must be flooded with water. Be sure you're getting all the corners and edges. Each day afterward for at least three weeks, it must be watered to the extent that the ground underneath the sod is wet. You can check this by peeling back a piece of sod in different places to look for wetness. If sod is planted in summer, watering twice a day is beneficial (early morning and early afternoon).