



**STOVER SEED®**

*Teaming confidence with nature since 1922*

## Technical Data and Information Product Sheet

### **RIO** Cold Tolerant Improved Bermudagrass

#### **DESCRIPTION**

RIO is the successor variety to the popular Riviera variety. It was developed out of the same breeding program and shares many of the same characteristics as Riviera. According to test data, Rio shares the same turf quality, density and cold tolerance ratings as Rio but with better texture. Rio is also rated the highest cultivar for spring greenup. The density and texture characteristics of this improved variety makes it an excellent choice for applications such as sportsfields, parks and golf courses that require turf with good wear tolerance, good recovery from injury and exceptional overall turf quality. Bermudagrass is classified as "California Friendly" by California Water Agencies and recommended for use in landscapes as a low water user.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS**

##### **Features**

Superior heat and drought tolerance  
Rhizomatous and Stoloniferous growth habit  
Excellent, warm weather seedling vigor  
Medium-fine texture  
Moderately good salt tolerance

##### **Benefits**

Meets water conservation goals  
Outstanding wear tolerance and recovery  
Fast establishment  
Uniform growth habit  
Tolerates reclaimed water

#### **USES**

Rio can be grown successfully as turf on:

- |                |         |                           |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------|
| * Golf Courses | * Parks | * Sportsfields            |
| * Playgrounds  | * Lawns | * Commercial Developments |

#### **SEEDING RATES**

New turf: 2-3 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 86 to 130 pounds per acre.

Overseeding existing turf: 1 to 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 43 to 86 pounds per acre.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT**

Warm season grasses such as bermudagrass should be seeded when daytime temperatures are consistently 80 degrees or greater (generally between the months of April and October). Germination is delayed if soil temperatures are below 65 degrees F. Emergence can be anywhere between 14 and 21 days. The higher the soil temperature, the quicker the germination as long as there is adequate moisture (irrigation). First mowing approximately 21 days after emergence.

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

##### **RIO BERMUDAGRASS SEED**

49% Minimum purity, unhulled coated seed  
50% Coating material  
80% Minimum germination  
750,000 seeds per pound



STOVER SEED®

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## CULTURAL INFORMATION

### Water Requirements

Frequent, light watering is necessary for seed to germinate and become established. Bermudagrass is a warm season grass. Once the grass becomes established it has the ability to withstand summer drought conditions under reduced irrigation schedules. For turf managers that use irrigation systems and calculations, Bermudagrass can be irrigated at 60% of average  $ET_0$  (Reference Evapotranspiration) rates to achieve optimum turf quality. Because of the ability of warm season grasses to establish roots at a depth of 3 feet or more it is able to draw water from a larger soil profile which enhances its drought tolerance. **As a result, once bermudagrass becomes established (2-3 months in warm weather) it can withstand irrigation schedules at 40% of  $ET_0$  (a reduction of 25%) and still produce acceptable turf.** Specific information on Turfgrass irrigation schedules and ET rates can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/> and at <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1195.pdf> and <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8395.pdf> General irrigation guidelines dictate that turf should be watered in early morning hours and that about 3/4 of an inch of water should be applied but not to the point of runoff.

### Climate Conditions

Bermudagrass is classified as a warm season grass best suited to southern climates. Growth is greatest during warm months with some dormancy in winter months.

### Soil Conditions

Bermudagrass will tolerate a wide range of soils from heavy clay to sandy loam. Ideal pH range is 6.0 to 7.5. Good drainage is important for root development.

### Fertilization

Use of a starter fertilizer when seeding is highly recommended. After establishment fertilize during periods of active growth in warm months with a balanced fertilizer. Avoid using products with a high nitrogen (N) content as such use increases water use. Application rates should be between 1 and 2 pounds of nitrogen (N) per 1,000 square feet per year during the growing season. Slow release fertilizers are best.

### Mowing

No special mower is needed for this premium bermudagrass product. Results are best when blades are kept sharp. Recommended mowing height is from 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches. Do not mow more than 1/3 of the leaf blade whenever mowing turf.

### Drought Tolerance Comparisons of Commonly Grown Grasses in California

Source: University of California, ANR Publication 8395

Relative Ranking	Cool-season turfgrasses	Warm-season turfgrasses
Superior		Bermudagrass Buffalograss
Excellent		Seashore paspalum Zoysiagrass
Good		St. Augustinegrass Kikuyugrass
Medium	Tall Fescue	
Fair	Perennial Ryegrass Kentucky Bluegrass Creeping Bentgrass Hard Fescue Chewings Fescue Red Fescue	

