

ALT LAWN ULTRA – FROGFRUIT

LAWN GUIDE

PHYLA NODIFLORA – Is a sterile variety of Frogfruit. A low-water succulent groundcover that is common to coastal climates around the world. It's found thriving in the wild all over California. Here's how to make it thrive at home.

“We play soccer on it twice a week and it's never been mown!” say the owners of the Alt Lawn Ultra lawn shown in the image above, 2 years after planting, “we even threw a Father-Daughter Girl Scout tea on it... there was a couple bare spots after for a few days after but it filled right back in once we increased the watering for a bit.”

Sterile Frogfruit is an awesome lawn alternative for California. It's creeping groundcover stems fill-in quickly when temps are consistently above 65°F. And they can spread up to 8 feet. Monthly mowing can increase buoyancy and minimize flowering but is not necessary.

Some things to know...

- **LOW-WATER** Like many drought-tolerant plants, Frogfruit prefers to be watered deeply and infrequently once mature. It will require heavy daily irrigation to establish itself first (see following pages for guidelines).

- **LOW-GROWING** In full sun Frogfruit naturally stays 1-2 cm or ½" high. In shade it stretches to 2-4" long and gets soft and wispy (but has even lower water needs!).

STERILE PHYLA VARIETALS: Frogfruit plug in pink shown at left. All sod is S1 type, with a purple-white flower and slightly more serrated leaf shape as seen at upper right. Plugs are also available in darker-leaved New White, which grows slower than other varieties meaning less trimming. Phyla Pink plugs have shown in trials to be moderately more drought-tolerant than other varieties.

- **DURABLE** Frogfruit can handle regular foot traffic but may need some extra care with heavy use. While light sport is perfectly acceptable, cleats and heavy sport will damage it. A ½" thick dressing of half compost / half sand can speed recovery if additional watering does not suffice. Or even speed establishment if soil is clay and drainage is poor.
- **NON-TOXIC & EDIBLE*** Wild animals and small rodents may snack on Frogfruit on occasion. Once it is established browsing isn't generally an issue (except where moles & gophers are a problem – see last page). However, when your install is new, if there's frequent wildlife in your area, laying chicken wire at a 1.5" height above plugs or sod will protect your investment.

**Edible in small quantities only. Consume at your own risk.*



CALIFORNIA
WILD GARDENS
WWW.CALWILDGARDENS.COM



ALT LAWN ULTRA

Install

IRRIGATION & SPRINKLERS

SPRINKLERS: Conventional impact and rotor sprinklers are the most effective way to irrigate. Smart controller systems make them easier and easier to manage. Low-water impact rotors are recommended to ensure a slow and thorough application of water. But expect to run them a bit longer to meet early saturation needs.

DRIP SYSTEMS: Small areas of Alt Lawn Ultra can be successfully irrigated with shrubblers or misters. Ensure they provide full surface area coverage. Watering in 2 cycles spaced 10–20 minutes apart is most effective with drip systems.

INLINE DRIP TUBING: Both above ground and subsurface are some of the best options for irrigating but more expensive.



Before



After



3 MONTHS IN

PREP SOIL

CLEAN IT UP: Pull out weeds, stumps & any plants you don't want (flag those you do for install crew)

LOOSEN IT UP: Use a shovel or tiller to lightly loosen the top 4–6 inches of soil. If you have sandy or fast-draining soil SKIP THIS STEP and add a ½" layer of fully mature compost.

SMOOTH IT OUT: Remove smaller rocks & roots. Level soil to be as smooth as possible.

RAKE-IN AMENDMENTS: Sprinkle and rake in compost, worm castings, micro-nutrients,



WET SOIL

SOAK SOIL: Using your hose or irrigation system, wet soil to a minimum of 6" deep.* Go for even more on very hot days. This gives sod roots the best bond with the soil.

SOD ROLLING

UNROLL SOD: In place within 30 mins to 24 hrs after delivery wherever possible. If it's hot, place sod rolls in the shade and mist or spray lightly until rolling. If highs are below 65° you can wait an extra day. Tarp rolls in rain to prevent added weight.

LAY STRAIGHT: Place the first roll of sod along the straightest edge of your yard (i.e. sidewalk or driveway) then lay sod end to end, pushing edges tightly together.

STAGGER SEAMS with every new row in a brick-like fashion for best finish. Work away from you so you are stepping on sod as little as possible. Roll sod across/perpendicular to slopes.

ROLL WITH ROLLER: Roll with a sod roller (giant metal rolling pin filled with water, rent one from your local hardware store) to ensure no air pockets have formed between the sod carpet and the soil surface.



CUT AROUND CORNERS

ESTABLISHMENT IRRIGATION

PHASE	Warm Season	Cool Season
First 7–14 Days	2x Day	1x Day
First 2–4 Weeks	1x Day	1x Day
First 4–8 Weeks	1x Day	3x Week
Next 3 Months	3x Week	1–2x Week
First Year	1–2x Week	1x Week

Irrigation guidelines are always general. Every season, region, soil structure and microclimate is different. So hang out with your new lawn, notice what works and what doesn't. Adjust as needed. Especially in extreme or unseasonal weather.



Aftercare

LIKES: Being watered in the morning, occasional dry spells, light treatments of half sand/half compost, plug aeration and groundcover-approved herbicides.

DISLIKES: Winter irrigation, temperatures 10°F or more below freezing, lawn fertilizer, heavy clay soil, pre-emergent herbicides

Unless it's a BRAND new planting, Frogfruit will not need water in the winter. When temperatures begin to warm, irrigate to the point that leaves are vibrant and green again, then shut off the water and wait until the leaves start to droop *slightly* before the next watering. Set your irrigation cycle appropriately. If leaf wilt gets excessive or to the point of stem wilt consider watering daily for a few days until plants show thorough signs of recovery. **Otherwise, less is always more when watering mature Phyla!**



AFTER 4-6 WEEKS
Walk on it Freely

*GERNERAL IRRIGATION GUIDELINES

CLIMATE	NorCal	SoCal	Desert	Coastal
January	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF
February	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF
March	Irrigation OFF	1 wk/month irrigate 2-3x	Irrigate 1x week	0-1x month
April	0-1x month	1 wk/month irrigate 2-3x	Irrigate 2-3x every other week	0-2x month
May	0-2x month	Irrigate 1x week	irrigate 2-3x every other week	1 wk/month irrigate 2-3x week
June	0-2x month	Irrigate 1x week	irrigate 2-3x every other week	1 wk/month irrigate 2-3x
July	0-2x month	Irrigate 2-3x every other week	irrigate 1-2x week	Irrigate 2-3x every other week
August	Irrigate 2-3x every other week	irrigate 2-3x every other week	irrigate 1-2x week	Irrigate 2-3x every other week
September	Irrigate 1x week	Irrigate 1x week	Irrigate 1x week	Irrigate 2-3x every other week
November	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF
December	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF	Irrigation OFF

* Remember every season, region, soil structure and microclimate is different. Please adjust accordingly. All irrigation guidelines are general. Avg. Irrigation sequence 10-12 minutes.



PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION
After heavy use



TRIM EDGES AS NEEDED
To prevent crowding other plants

FLOWERING If flowering is excessive, scale back on water and/or mow once per month (blooms only occur on older stems). Widespread flowering typically appears only in Spring.

FERTILIZING Annual application helps assist growth. DO NOT use conventional lawn fertilizers. Apply 12-12-12 or 16-16-16 balance or good compost.

GOPHERS & MOLES Gopher wire works well with Phyla plugs or when laid uner sod. Otherwise try putting cotton balls soaked in camphor in rodent holes...or trapping.

WEEDS Long dry spells between watering make weeds minimal. And the thick mat Phyla plants form prevent most seeds. Japanese garden knives (like Hori hori's) are the best hand tools for chopping down weeds. Do your best to keep herbicides from getting on Frogfruit when applying.

NUTSEDGE Products with Halosulfuron-methyl as active ingredient (i.e. Sedgehammer).

RYE & FESCUE Pull by hand or chop at base.

LARGE LEAFY WEEDS Pull by hand or chop at base.

SPREADING GRASSES Products with Sethoydim (i.e. "Grass Getter").

COLD & FROST

Covering Frogfruit with 1-2" of sand can help it to tolerate consistently below freezing temperatures.

