



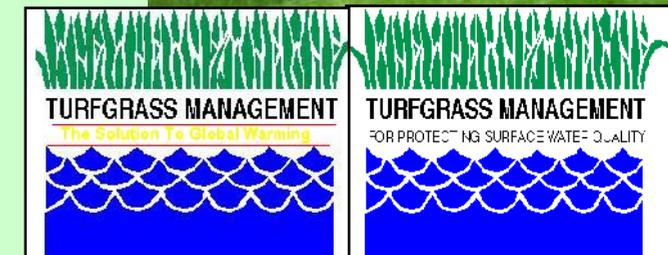
Why do we have Grass , Lawn and Turf ?

Many Industry people have their own ideas but here are our sixteen best reasons.

Clean Air, Water and Soil

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- 1/ Aethsetically pleasing, looks good to the eye. Green is a pleasant colour.
- 2/ Cheaper than concrete or paving.
- 3/ If cut at a reasonable height, grass is substantially cooler in summer than other mediums.(Up to 30 deg)
- 4/ Does not reflect heat into homes, in fact it is said to have a huge airconditioning effect on the area.
- 5/ A good lawn will add value to your property. (Up to 15% more)
- 6/ Comfortable and safe to sit or play on. Sporting fields are a good example. Grass burn on skin not as bad as synthetic surfaces. Prevents injury to sportsmen and children. During the Australian drought, many sporting fields were closed due to risk of injury
- 7/ Durable, can regrow if damaged. (some varieties will not regrow if left to die)
- 8/ A lawn of 232 ** square metres can provide enough oxygen at ground level for a family of four per day. Converts Co2 to Oxygen.. (If cut at 50 mm or above) . (**15.2 x 15.2 metres) Grass provides 3 times more oxygen than trees, all at ground level.
- 9/ Grass does limit weed growth as long as it is healthy, dethatched often, cut at 50mm or more and cut regularly
(Low cut or dead grass will allow weed infestation)
- 10/ **Fire retardant.** Green grass does not burn like mulch or dry grass. Fire = C02 emission
- 11/ Sound absorbant, reduces traffic and neighbourhood noise.
- 12/ Odour is pleasant, especially after grass is cut.***
- 13/ Grass will absorb carbons and is useful next to highways to trap car exhaust pollution
- 14/ Filters airborne dust and pollen. Filters water runoff preventing pollution.
- 15/ Binds the soil and stops soil erosion. Minimises eutrophication
- 16/ Water from lawns will keep trees alive during very dry periods. This will prevent the possibility of limbs and branches falling during drought.(falling object danger)
Water runs off areas under trees when grass is not present, often tree roots reach the surface of the soil creating a hard pan that sheds water quickly.
Retention of water is important to drought stressed trees. If the lawn was not there as a moisture conservation barrier, it may be that the trees would not be as healthy or be able to convert carbon (carbon-dioxide) to oxygen. Another global warming issue.
Lawn and trees together can substantially lower soil salinity levels, when either plant dies, the balance of nature can change with permanent results.



A True Story

During a the Gunnedah Field Days (Agquip) 1996 a discussion developed between two customers and myself. The theme of the discussion was why we have lawns. One gentleman insisted that he hated grass so he cut his country lawn very short so that it would die and then he would be able to see snakes approaching his home. His mate disagreed. He insisted that it was best to keep the lawn green and cut higher. He cited some of the reasons listed above but added one that I had not thought of. He said " A brown snake can be best seen on green lawn rather than brown grass"

*** CSIRO research (Department of Air Research) has evidence that grass smell is a VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) May have to be collected and composted.