

# Caring for Your Centipedegrass

## January through December

The following information has been adapted directly from NC State's internet publication TurfFiles. The information has been filtered to provide the information you need to complement the services we provide for you. If you wish to view this reference, go to <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/management/ag431.html> . You can also reference TurfFiles at [www.turffiles.ncsu.edu](http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu) .

### **Mowing**

Mow your centipedegrass lawn to one inch before it is no higher than 1.5". Recycle your clippings since twenty-five per cent of your nutrients are in the clippings.

### **Watering**

Centipedegrass requires about an inch of rainfall per week. If you see runoff, delay your watering to allow it to soak and then resume your irrigation until you achieve the amount needed. Use a rain gauge to determine rainfall amounts. You can also use a pan or pie tin to collect irrigation water. Then calculate the amount your sprinkler delivers to achieve the weekly rainfall you would need to augment the week's rainfall. A good watering program will help keep your lawn healthy and mitigate pest, disease, and weed problems. Watering may be required while it is dormant if conditions are unusually warm, dry, or windy.

### **Thatch**

Thatch is the layer of dead (undecayed) grass at the surface of your lawn. Thatch is beneficial in the winter to protect your turf from cold. Thatch in the summer and spring prevent water and nutrients from reaching your lawn. If the thatch layer is more than 0.5", it should be removed. Severe thatching can cause damage to your centipedegrass.

### **Pests**

White grub worm control is best performed during two periods: 1) March/April prior to hatching into beetles and 2) August after eggs have been laid and grubs are closest to the soil surface. The presence of moles is an indicator that you may have grubs since they are an excellent food source.

Check for Red Imported Fire Ant mounds. It is important to treat these pests as soon as you discover them to prevent liability risks and to slow their spread to other areas. Fire ants damage plants and have been known to chew through power and communication lines.