



# MATA - TURF, INC.

Selling Customer Satisfaction

## Texas Grown and Proud Quality & Service

# A Healthy Lawn is the Heart of a Perfect Garden

“The Grass is always Greener on our Side.”

**Going Green** is the key to solving most of the Turf Problems we encounter.

Using **Organics** and **Organic Fertilizers** that have beneficial Microbial Bacteria's is the key to good soil health, pests, our water supplies and ultimately the planet.



## Installation - Care Sheet

\*\* Note the Section dealing with Grub Worms and Sod Webworms; they have become one of our biggest problems with St. Augustine and Zoysia varieties

\*\* Going Green is the key to solving most of the Turf Problems we encounter, Using Organics and Organic Fertilizers that have Beneficial Microbial Bacteria's is the key to Good Soil Health , Pests, Our Water Supplies and Ultimately the Planet. Check out [www.microlifefertilizer.com](http://www.microlifefertilizer.com) for specifics.

\*\*\* Mata Turf is dedicated to providing Fresh & Quality, Disease Free/Pest Free/ Weed Free Sod/Turf, to our customers. However\*\* Please take note: Due to Climatic & Environmental Conditions in our region of Texas, Sod / Turf can be infested in a matter of days with harmful Insects at their time of the year. It is basically up to you or a maintenance company to be watching after your sod has been delivered or installed for these Insects. Mata Turf is not responsible for not following our guidelines for maintaining your Turf. WE ARE THE ONLY COMPANY THAT DOES THIS. The guidelines in this Care Sheet will help you keep a healthy lawn.

## PLANTING

Remove all plant debris, rocks, sticks and all other foreign objects that might keep the pad of sod from making good contact with the soil. Never install Sod on top of Dead Sod or Thatch, Fungus will certainly result. **Apply an Insecticide on the soil prior to installation for Grub Worms. We generally apply a Topical Treatment on top of the Sod when totally finished as well for Larvae.** Lay the sod end-to-end and edge to edge as close as possible. Do / Stagger as if laying bricks. Roll the grass with a sod roller or tamp down with the back of a shovel as soon as Sod is installed to insure complete contact of the Sod to the soil below.

## WATERING

Water immediately! Water the new sod so that the water penetrates the blocks to the soil, and check to make sure by lifting up some of the blocks to see that the soil below is wet as well as the blocks of sod. Water the new sod every day for 10 days, keeping it soaking wet After that, water the new sod every other day for 10 days; however, if it rains you can skip those days. Water as needed when you first observe wilting, and water longer less often to promote deep rooting of the grass.

## FERTILIZING

### *With Organics*

This is the recommended method to use for long term soil health. Upon Installation Apply Microlife Humates Plus 0-0-4 at rate of 10 lbs per 1000 Square Feet and Microgro Granular at a rate of 10 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. 4-6 weeks later Fertilize with Microlife 6-2-4 at a rate of 20 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. Repeat this Fertilizer in the fall, adding the Microlife Humates plus & Microgro Granular. Your next Fertilization will be after March 10 with Microlife Ultimate 8-4-6 for the best results. 18-5-9 Majestic Gro would be a good Nitrogen spike around the 4th of July Fertilize with liquid Iron, (Ferro- Mec), as needed for color.

### *With Synthetics*

After 4 to 6 weeks fertilize with a complete fertilizer like 13-13-13. Then fertilize around the 4th of July with 21-0-0. Fertilize with liquid Iron, (Ferro- Mec), as needed for color. Fall fertilization in October or early November, fertilize with 15-5-10 or a 3-1-2 ratio at 6 lbs per 1000 square feet. After November, fertilize with a 5-10-10 or a 1-3-2 Ratio. Your next fertilization will be after March 10 with a complete fertilizer 13-13-13 or 15-15-15. We do not recommend using Weed n Feed fertilizers, as they tend to set back the existing Turf.

## MOWING

t. St. Augustine mowing height is from 1 ½" to 2 ½". Mow the grass at the shorter height in early spring and as it gets hotter and drier increase the mowing height. Also if the grass is growing in an area that is not getting at least 3 ½ hours of sun light a day set the mowing height at least at 2 ½". Other Turf varieties have different mowing heights, ask us or refer to the website.

# INSECTS

## CHINCH BUGS

Chinch bug damage first appears as slight yellowing of the St. Augustine like it is dry and generally starts from Flatwork, (Sidewalks / Driveways). Chinch bugs feed on the plant juices and dry the plant out.

**Organic Method:** A. *Spinosad Insect Garden Spray*, the label lists small worms (< 3/4") including Armyworms and Sod Webworms. The bonus is it also lists Cat Fleas on the label. B. A recommended method is Apply Monterey BT LG to Soil after discovering Grub Worms / Sod Webworms / Army Worms or Chinch Bugs for Quick Kill. C. Another Remedy is Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap available at Walgreens / Target or Wal-Mart. About 2 ounces per gallon is the sweet spot. Granular applications will not be effective during an Infestation. They must be Sprayed.

**Synthetic Methods:** Granular applications will not be effective during an Infestation. They must be Sprayed, every 7-10 days. Use Liquid Permethrin, Liquid Triazicide, Liquid Bayer Complete or Liquid Malathion. To control them, water the St. Augustine thoroughly in the late evening, then spray the entire lawn area with Triazicide or Malathion at the recommended rate on the container. A repeat treatment may be needed 10 – 14 days later because of new chinch bugs hatching.

## GRUBS: 1<sup>st</sup> Enemy to deal with

Grub damage is similar in appearance to Chinch bug damage except areas of brown grass will not have any roots; it will be spongy when walking on it. You can lift grass from the ground because it will not be attached to the soil because the Grub Worms eat the roots.

### **Organic Method:**

Cool Huh? No Chemicals "ECO SMART" may be applied; it is an organic insecticide that works. It needs to be applied every 2 months after planting until the Sod is totally rooted. For Quick Kill: A. *Spinosad Insect Garden Spray*, the label lists small worms (< 3/4") including Armyworms and Sod Webworms. The bonus is it also lists Cat Fleas on the label. B. A recommended method is Apply Monterey BT LG to Soil after discovering Grub Worms / Sod Webworms / Army Worms or Chinch Bugs for Quick Kill. C. Another remedy is Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap available at Walgreens / Target or Wal-Mart. About 2 ounces per gallon is the sweet spot.

### **Synthetic Method:**

Preventative treatment is the best. We recommend Bayer Complete or Triazicide Granules, made by Spectracide; it can usually be found at your local garden shop or Home Depot / Lowe's. Treat when planting Sod by applying the insecticide on top of the soil prior to planting to assure proper rooting. Treat again in late May and again in July / August with the granules. The insecticide must be watered in to kill the grubs while they are close to the surface of the soil feeding on the roots of the sod.

## SOD WEBWORMS:

Sod Webworms became the biggest Pest problem we experienced in 2017. We attribute this to a mild winter and excessive rainfall; we expect a similar return this year of the Sod Webworms. They begin in late June / early July & continued until November last year. ALL THESE INSECTS GRAVITATE TO NEW SOD, AS IT IS NOT ROOTED IN AND/OR IS STRESSING. THE WORMS DO NOT COME IN THE SOD; WE SPRAY THEM DAILY AT OUR FARMS DURING THEIR INCUBATION AND THRIVING SEASON.

**Organic Method:** *Humic Fulvic Acid Complex* is very effective at treating Sod Webworms. **THEY HAVE TO BE SPRAYED!** Using *Humic Fulvic Acid Complex, Granular Insecticides* will not work. A. *Spinosad Insect Garden Spray*, the label lists small worms (< 3/4") including Armyworms and Sod Webworms. The bonus is it also lists Cat Fleas on the label. B. A recommended method is Apply Monterey BT LG to Soil after discovering Grub Worms / Sod Webworms / Army Worms or Chinch Bugs for Quick Kill. C. Another Remedy is Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap available at Walgreens / Target or Wal-Mart. About 2 ounces per gallon is the sweet spot. Granular Insecticides will not work.

**Synthetic Method:** The best treatment is a preventative treatment of Bayer Complete or Triazicide granules in late May and again in July / August. After the granules are spread, be sure and water. Granular applications will not be effective during an Infestation! They must be Sprayed, every 7-10 days, as they will continue moving in after you have killed the 1st round. Use Liquid Permethrin, Liquid Triazicide, Liquid Bayer Complete or Liquid Malathion.

## DISEASE

### BROWN PATCH

Brown Patch is the most common disease of St. Augustine grass. It can occur in the late spring; however, it is usually the most active in the fall when conditions are the most favorable. Generally, the pattern of yellowing will be circular in nature.

Ideal conditions are cloudy days, excess moisture, 65 – 70 degree nighttime temperatures and daytime temperatures in the mid 70's to mid 80's and with excess nitrogen available. Typical symptoms are circular areas with brown centers with a yellow to light green area outlining the brown area. The fungus is active in the yellow to green area.

Prevention of Brown Patch is difficult. Some suggestions are: do not use urea or nitrate based nitrogen fertilizers in the late summer or fall, also make sure your lawn drains and there are not any areas where excess moisture stands.

#### **Organic Method:**

Apply Microlife Brown Patch 5-1-3 at a rate of 20 lbs. per 1000 Square Feet. When using as a preventative apply 30 days prior. The Microlife Brown Patch has Microbial Bacteria that eat the Fungi. Cool Huh? No Chemicals

#### **Synthetic Method:**

Treatment should begin at the first sign on yellowing rings in the lawn. Fungicides are available such as Ortho Fungicide for Brown Patch or other equivalent products. Depending on which fungicide is used, treatments are made every 14 days to as much as every 30 days. Treatment must continue as long as conditions are right for brown patch to occur.

### TAKE ALL PATCH

Take All Patch was identified some years back and looks similar to Brown Patch, except it occurs when the temperature is too high for Brown Patch to be active in the summer and too cold for it to occur in the spring. Take All Patch is a soil borne disease. Unlike Brown Patch, this disease can kill the St. Augustine if it is not treated. **Multiple treatments of fungicide are usually needed and may not be effective at all.**

If it is diagnosed in your lawn, it can be treated with fungicides that are not readily available at Home Depot or Lowe's. Some of these Fungicides are no longer available to the public. We have only seen a few cases of Take All Patch in the past 10 years.

## FALL ARMY WORMS

The Bermuda varieties of Turf are susceptible to these, \*\* However this past year, we noted the Army worms on St. Augustine's and Zoysia's. The Army Worms usually will surface in July, August, and September & through November this past year.

#### **Organic Method:**

*Spinosad Insect Garden Spray, the label lists small worms (< 3/4") including Armyworms and Sod Webworms. The bonus is it also lists Cat Fleas on the label. B. A recommended method is Apply Monterey BT LG to Soil after discovering Grub Worms / Sod Webworms / Army Worms or Chinch Bugs for Quick Kill. C. Another Remedy is Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap available at Walgreens / Target or Wal-Mart. About 2 ounces per gallon is the sweet spot. Granular Insecticides will not work. THEY HAVE TO BE SPRAYED!*

#### **Synthetic Method:**

Granular applications will not be effective during an Infestation. They must be Sprayed, every 7-10 days. Use Liquid Permethrin, Liquid Triazicide, Liquid Bayer Complete or Liquid Malathion. Fortunately this is the only problem Bermudas generally have with Pests.

We hope that these few pointers will help you in your installation and everyday care of your lawn. If you have a question not answered by this care sheet, Please, feel free to contact us at anytime or check our website for further instructions. We would also appreciate any feedback or ideas on improving our care sheet.

Check out [www.microlifefertilizer.com](http://www.microlifefertilizer.com)  
for specifics.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!!!!**

Anthony Bevis, President / CEO Mata Turf, Inc.

**MATA-TURF, INC**

10408 Tanner Road

Houston, Texas

713-896-9532 | 713-896-4744

[www.mataturf.com](http://www.mataturf.com)