

## Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)



Image from Texas A&M University

Bermudagrass is commonly used on athletic fields located in warmer regions of the United States although some varieties are being developed for cooler temperatures. Bermudagrass is a desirable species for athletic fields due to its dense, aggressive growth, ability to withstand heat stress, recuperative potential, and aesthetic appearance.



Image from Texas A&M University

## **Identifying Characteristics:**

**Growth Habit:** rhizomatous and stoloniferous

**Vernation:** folded

**Ligule:** fringe of hairs (1-3 mm)

**Auricles:** absent

**Sheath:** flattened to rough, loose, split with overlapping edges, sparsely hairy

**Collar:** narrow, continuous, may be hairy on edges

**Leaf tip:** pointed

**Leaf Blades:** adaxial: smooth or hairy, tapering toward tip; abaxial: smooth or hairy

**Seedhead:** 3-5 slender spikes, joining at the top of the main stem

## **Additional information:**

Bermudagrass is a warm-season perennial that is well adapted to athletic surfaces due to its wear resistance and recuperative capacity.

Bermudagrass grows by stolons and rhizomes which forms a densely growing turf. Bermudagrass grows by seed, but most improved hybrid varieties grow best when planted as sprigs or sod.