

## Warm Season Grasses General Facts & Features

1. Native to warm and arid zones having high summer temperatures coupled with high light intensity.
2. Winter temperature is the principal determining factor regarding their distribution – not suited to localities having winter temperatures below approx 13° C.
3. Optimum growth ranges – shoots 25° – 33° C; roots 22° – 27° C.  
Main growth period – **late spring – summer – early autumn.**
4. 8 main Genera
  - Couch (Cynodon spp)
  - Qld Blue Couch (Digitaria)
  - Durban grass (Dactyloctenium)
  - Zoysias (Zoysia spp)
  - Buffalo (Stenotaphrum)
  - Saltwater couch (Paspalum spp)
  - Carpet grasses (Axonopus spp)
5. All are stoloniferous and may rhizomatous
6. Generally poor shade tolerance (exceptions Buffalo and Durban)
7. Most will tolerate low H.O.C and are used in a variety of sporting, commercial and domestic situations.
8. Poorly adapted to low temperatures.
9. More tolerant of dry conditions and excessive wear than CSG (deeper roots and stronger stems).
10. Mainly propagated by vegetative means eg turf, springs, although several types have seed commercially available eg couches, Carpet grass.