Types of Lawn Grass for Central Texas

Bermuda
Buffalo
Zoysia
St. Augustine

Bermuda Grass:
- High traffic tolerant
- Drought tolerant
- Fine leaf texture
- Grows best in well drained sites
- Water requirements increase with increase levels of maintenance

High traffic tolerant: Mow every 3-7 days @ 1-1.5” height
Drought tolerant: Reel mowers produce best cut
Fine leaf texture: Does not grow well in shade
Grows best in well drained sites: Relatively high fertilizer requirement
Water requirements increase with increase levels of maintenance: Grows best under extended periods of high temperature, mild winters and moderate to high rainfall

Pests:
- Feed on roots: White Grubs, Mole Crickets and Ground Pearls
- Foliage: Armyworms, Cutworms and Sod Webworms
  - Can be controlled by biological and chemical methods
- Diseases: Dollar Spot, Leaf Spot, Brown Patch and Take-All Root Rot
  - Can be controlled by fungicides
- Weeds: Clover, Chickweed, Dandelion, Henbit, Dichondra
  - Control with hormone herbicides such as 2, 4-D, MCPP, Dicamba or Bromozynil
  - Crabgrass, Dallisgrass and Goosegrass
  - Control with a few applications of MSMA or pre-emergence herbicides

Buffalo Grass:
- High cold tolerance
- Low disease potential
- Fine leaf texture
- Low fertilizer requirement
- Seldom grows taller than 5”
- Favors heavy clay soils
- Good for sites to be planted with wildflowers
- Not shade nor traffic tolerant
- Low salinity tolerance
- Mow every 7-14 days @ 1-3” height
- Used for pasture and erosion control
- Highly drought resistant
- Best for low rainfall areas
- Low maintenance
**Zoysiagrass**
Drought tolerant  Requires well drained soils
Water requirements similar to Bermuda  Mowed every 5-7 days @ 1-2”height
Needs occasional thatch removal  Lives in all kinds of soils

**Pests:**
Diseases: Brownpatch, Rust and Leaf Spot diseases
Usually recover when environmental conditions change
Insects: White Grubs
More than 4 per square foot, then use insecticides

**St. Augustine**
High shade tolerant  Low traffic tolerance
Tolerates wide range of soil types  Mow every 5-7 days @ 2.5-3.5”
Coarse leaf texture  Low cold tolerance

**Pests:**
Insects: Chinch Bugs and White Grubs
Control with insecticides
Sod Webworms, Armyworms and Cutworms
Control with insecticides or bioworm control

Diseases: St. Augustine Decline (virus)
No chemical control, only resistant varieties of St. Augustine
Brownpatch, Gray Leaf Spot, Rust and Take-All Root Rot
Controlled by fungicide

Weeds: Henbit, Chickweed and Clover
Controlled by non-selective contact herbicides while grass is dormant or
hormone-type herbicides in early spring
Fescue, Annual Bluegrass and Crabgrass
Controlled by pre-emergence herbicide
Dallisgrass and Bermudagrass
Difficult to control