

## **Breeding Nara Native turf.**

The Breeder Todd Layt.

I have bred many forms of turf, such as Sapphire Buffalo, Kenda Kikuyu, Cynomax Couch and Cynosport couch, but I feel the most important breeding work I have ever done is to develop Nara Native Turf. For over 18 years I have been trying to develop a good all round native turf. I tried *Microlaena*, *Sporobolus*, native *Paspalum*s and even the only native couch subspecies. After years of breeding all failed. I tried to breed a good native turf from *Zoysia macrantha* for about 8 years, each year taking seeds from the new generation, germinating them and growing out the new generation. Unfortunately all were still too slow growing to be a good native turf. Although by this time I had developed a variety called T11, which was at least a big improvement over common *Zoysia macrantha*. The next year a seedling grew from the T11, and I hit the jackpot. It was so much faster than the common native turf, and a lot faster than T11. I had taken a native turf that would take 3 to 4 years to grow a crop on a turf farm, that would not cope with the rigors of a general purpose lawn, and turned it into Nara. A turf that growers could grow easily, and more importantly, a native turf that Australians could use easily, and in the same way they use a traditional lawn. Finally the first and only all purpose native turf was born.

## **Finally a good Native turf.**

MAC03, a type of *Zoysia macrantha*, is a multi-generational selection that has taken almost a decade to breed. It will cover the ground close to three times as fast as the common form of *Zoysia macrantha*. It is more salt tolerant than the *Zoysia japonica* forms, is rust resistant, and is an easy turf to grow. It has a slightly finer leaf than Empire Turf, yet broader than common *Zoysia macrantha*.

### **What does Nara MAC03 look like? See Photos.**

It has a slightly finer leaf than the only other widely grown *Zoysia*, namely Empire (not native), it has a different colour, typical of other *Zoysia macrantha* types, and when unmown it is easily identified as it has the typical *Zoysia macrantha* look, having more elongated leaves than the *japonica* forms. When mown it forms a dense mat, but is not a thatchy turf. It has very quick spring green up, and has better winter colour than couch lawns. Weeds can be sprayed out with most herbicides that can be used on couch. Nara MAC03 is easy to grow.