



Zoysiagrass, with its heat, drought, cold and salinity tolerance, is quickly growing in popularity in Texas.

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 therefore a considerably more stressful shade environment than zoysiagrass would typically be recommended for. It is commonly recommended that a site receive at least 4 hours of direct sunlight for satisfactory zoysiagrass performance.

Conclusions

By the conclusion of the study, it had become clear that the finer textured zoysiagrass cultivars (*Z. matrellas*) possess much better shade tolerance than their coarser-textured counterparts (*Z. japonicas*). In fact, the top four performers in our study were *Z. matrella*, while four of the bottom six were *Z. japonica* cultivars. Clearly, newer cultivars of zoysia are superior to Meyer in terms of shade tolerance.

Based on previous reports, we were also surprised by the somewhat average performance of Diamond zoysiagrass in this study.

Diamond had shown remarkable shade tolerance in past studies, when managed under much tighter mowing heights and greater management intensity. However, in the confines of this low-input, heavily shaded environment, Royal, Zorro and Shadow Turf demonstrated good lateral growth rates while generally maintaining higher density and color than the coarser-textured cultivars Palisades, Crowne, JaMur and Meyer.

A 3-year shade tolerance summary based on our work resulted in the following cumulative ranking (the number of times cultivar ranked in top statistical group is shown in parenthesis): Royal (51) > Zorro (49) > Shadow Turf (46) > Diamond (39) > Palisades (36) > Crowne (30) > Cavalier (28) > JaMur (27) > Zeon (17) > Meyer (10).

Ben Wherley, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University. He can be reached at b-wherley@tamu.edu.

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