

What is the Best Grass for Shade in Florida?

If you're looking for the best grass for shade in Florida, here's a quick recap:

Palmetto St. Augustine – Offers exceptional shade tolerance, a thick green appearance and low maintenance, making it perfect for mixed sun and shade conditions.

CitraBlue St. Augustine – Provides outstanding shade and disease resistance while maintaining a vibrant blue-green hue, ideal for Florida's humid climate.

Cobalt St. Augustine – Excels in dense shade with excellent drought and disease resistance, perfect for low-maintenance lawns.

CitraZoy Zoysia – A high-performing zoysia variety with excellent shade tolerance, drought resistance and a soft, fine texture.

Lobo Zoysia – Known for its deep green color and high shade tolerance, offering a dense, carpet-like appearance with moderate maintenance needs.

Empire Zoysia – A durable, low-maintenance variety with good shade tolerance and excellent drought resistance.

Celebration Bermuda – A top choice for high-traffic areas with moderate shade tolerance and superior recovery rates.

Celebration Hybrid Bermuda – An improved version of Celebration Bermuda with enhanced shade tolerance and excellent durability.

No matter which grass you choose, proper care—such as mowing at a higher height, limiting foot traffic and pruning surrounding trees—will help your lawn thrive in shaded areas.

Tips for Growing Grass in Shade

No matter which grass you choose, proper care is essential to help it thrive in shaded areas.

- 1) **Mow Higher:** Keeping the mowing height slightly higher allows for better photosynthesis in low-light conditions.
- 2) **Limit Foot Traffic:** Shaded lawns grow slower, so minimizing traffic helps maintain healthy grass.
- 3) **Watch for Disease:** Shaded areas retain moisture, making them susceptible to fungal infections—keep an eye out for any disease outbreaks.
- 4) **Prune Trees & Shrubs:** Allow more sunlight to reach your lawn by thinning out and trimming overhanging branches every 3 years.

Descriptions of Four Popular Florida Grass Types for Shady Areas

A. Palmetto St. Augustine – High Shade Tolerance & Versatility

Palmetto® St. Augustine is the most popular patented St. Augustine variety in the U.S., with over three billion square feet sold. This variety thrives in both sun and shade, making it a perfect choice for Florida homeowners who have yards with a mix of light conditions.

Why Choose Palmetto St. Augustine?

- Exceptional shade tolerance – Grows well with only 3–4 hours of direct sunlight per day.
- Lush, vibrant appearance – Deep green color with a fine texture.
- Durable & disease-resistant – Withstands drought, heat and common turf diseases.
- Low maintenance – Requires minimal mowing and fertilization.

Best For: Florida lawns with mixed sun & shade, homeowners looking for a low maintenance but beautiful yard.

B. CitraBlue St. Augustine – Best for Shade & Disease Resistance

CitraBlue St. Augustine is a shade-tolerant and disease-resistant variety bred specifically for Florida's hot and humid climate. Known for its rich blue-green color, this variety also features a thick lateral growth pattern, reducing mowing frequency.

Why Choose CitraBlue St. Augustine?

- Superior shade tolerance – Just as shade-tolerant as Palmetto, if not more.
- Disease resistance – Resists gray leaf spot, large patch, and take-all root rot.
- Low maintenance – Requires less mowing & fertilization.
- Thrives in Florida's climate – Handles heat, humidity and drought with ease.

Best For: Homeowners looking for a shade-tolerant, disease-resistant St. Augustine variety with a vibrant blue-green hue.

C. Cobalt St. Augustine – Best for Dense Shade & Disease Resistance

Cobalt St. Augustine is an excellent shade performer with a deep green color and outstanding disease resistance. This grass is perfect for areas that experience prolonged shade and drought conditions.

Why Choose Cobalt St. Augustine?

- Very high shade tolerance – Thrives with at least 3–4 hours of direct sunlight.
- Disease resistant – Fights common turf diseases like gray leaf spot.
- Excellent drought resistance – Stays green even in dry spells.
- Low maintenance – Requires less watering and mowing.

Best For: Homeowners seeking a dense, shade-tolerant lawn with strong drought tolerance.

D. CitraZoy Zoysia – High Shade Tolerance & Easy Maintenance

CitraZoy is a newer zoysia variety that offers a balance of shade tolerance, drought resistance, and ease of care. It maintains a soft, dense appearance with good durability.

Why Choose CitraZoy Zoysia?

- Excellent shade tolerance – Performs well in partially shaded areas.
- Soft, fine texture – Comfortable and visually appealing.
- Drought resistance – Stays green longer during dry periods.
- Low maintenance – Requires minimal mowing and watering.

Best For: Shaded lawns needing fine-textured, easy-to-maintain grass.