

<b>Couch Trial Observations</b>				
Date:21/1/2009	<b>Conquest</b>	<b>Legend</b>	<b>Santa ana</b>	<b>Grand Prix</b>
<b>Colour</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Vigour</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Thatch</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall Presentation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8.5</b>

**Colour: 0 to 9 (0 = straw coloured and 9 = green)**

**Vigour: 0 to 9 (0 = no growth and 9 = long and numerous stolons) Measured by lateral growth**

**Thatch: 0 to 9 (0 = bare soil and 9 = very thick mat)**



Santa ann foreground and Legend background



Grand Prix foreground and Conquest background

These couch trial plots have now been established for 12 months. They have been through Canberra's winter (including frosts) and are now into their second summer.

There is no doubt that couch grass uses less water compared to traditional cool season grasses in Canberra. For home gardeners that are thinking of changing to couch, trying to decide which couch to choose may come down to personal preference. For home lawn situations the differences in couch varieties can be marginal compared to choosing a couch for a sports turf surface. Sports turf surfaces are especially prepared for players to use, fast ball roll etc. They are often intensely managed at low heights of cut and rolled etc. For home gardeners who don't face these pressures, most couches available will be suitable and all will reduce water usage.

Couch grass thrives on high levels of nitrogen. Since winter 2008, the couch trial plots have had 4 applications of fertilizer containing high levels of nitrogen.

The couch trial plots are being mown at approximately 1 inch twice to three times a week during summer.