

WHY IS TURF **BROWN?**



01. TURF RECOVERY

MANAGE THAT THATCH It's Time to Tune Up Turf



The summer heat has taken its toll, and **NOW** is the time to focus on *turf recovery*.

About Kikuyu Grass.

Is a warm-season grass brought to Southern California in 1920 from East Africa for erosion control and as a pasture grass. Kikuyu easily accumulates biomass build-up, or **THATCH**. This spongy, deeply rooted mat becomes difficult to mow without creating unwanted rutting in the turf.

While Kikuyu is an exceptional plant—it is aggressive, highly competitive, spreads quickly by several means, and tolerates drought, over-watering, and poor soil. Listed on the State and Federal Noxious-Weed lists, Kikuyu is illegal to plant it deliberately.

Once established, it is hearty and nearly impossible to eradicate. Kikuyu's highly invasive potential is due to its elongated rhizomes and stolons, with which it penetrates the ground, rapidly forming dense mats and suppressing other plant species. It grows from a dense network of rhizomatous roots and sends out stolons, which extend along the ground. It grows on slopes, in pastures, golf courses, parks, sports fields, and commonly in residential lawns.



Over the **summer months** the Kikuyu grass develops a thick **thatch layer of dead grass**. Through the growing season the maintenance crews will raise the mowers every few weeks to prevent the mowers from cutting into the thatch to maintain that green look. Every year the thatch gets too thick to mow and interferes with irrigation, impeding sprinkler heads from popping up resulting in dry spots throughout the turf.



Harvest Landscape follows a **5-STEP TURF REJUVENATION** process to bring turf back to life in the Fall. During this process, the irrigation is shut off for all turf areas to allow the turf to dry out, typically this is a 6-week cycle:



Scalping.

Cutting grass at the lowest mower setting exposes the grass stem removing the thick layer of thatch leaving the turf exposed and looking bare.



Dethatch.

This mechanical process vertically breaks up **rhizomes** in the turf to allow for better water absorption and nutrient penetration to prevent excess thatch build up.



rhizome

/ˈrīzōm/

a continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out lateral shoots and adventitious roots at intervals.



STEP 03

Reseed.

This is a fescue and rye seed application that will take about 3 weeks to fill in but will return the turf to looking fantastic.



STEP 04

Irrigation.

During this process, water usage will be managed to optimize seed germination.



STEP 05

Fertilize.

Fertilization enhances the soil's active nutrients promoting germination and colorization in the grass. As the Kikuyu grass absorbs the nutrients and goes into overwintering, the grass will hold on to the vital nutrients prior to germination in preparation for Spring growth.

02. TURF RECOVERY

The Benefits

It ***SAVES*** water and money.

It brings ***LIFE*** to the soil.

REDUCES weeds, pathogens, and insects.

PREVENTS trip hazards and barren spots.

Creates ***HEALTHY, GREEN*** turf year after year.



For more information, please **contact your account manager** or email us at **marketing@hlei.us**.

Technicians.

Technology.

Sustainability.

2119 W. Orangewood Ave
Orange, CA 92868

T +1 714 693 8100

F +1 714 693 8123