Kurapia Groundcover Frequently Asked Questions

What is Kurapia?

Kurapia [*Phyla (Lippia) nodiflora*) is a low growing, herbaceous, perennial dicot groundcover belonging to the Verbenaceae or Verbena family. Although the species is either native or naturalized to California, Kurapia is a sterile, non-invasive, cultivar from Japan, which is propagated vegetatively by plugs or creeping stems (stolons) only. Kurapia's dense canopy and deep root system provide excellent drought tolerance and soil stabilization even on steep slopes. It is also tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions including salinity, but generally prefers sandy, well-drained soils. Kurapia reaches a maximum height of 3 to 6 inches and produces numerous small, white flowers from spring to late summer. As a result, mowing is not required. However, regular mowing with a rotary or reel mower as low as 2 inches can be used to minimize flowering. Kurapia can tolerate partial shade and light traffic when maintained either non-mowed or mowed similar to a lawn; however, it is not recommended for use under intensive, concentrated traffic. Kurapia is adapted to climate zones of 7b and higher. In regions where average daily temperatures remain above 45 °F, Kurapia will stay evergreen; however, growth will gradually decrease and enter dormancy when average daily temperatures fall to around 38 °F. Kurapia has been known to survive temperatures as low as 13 °F. These temperatures are provided as estimates, as Kurapia greenness, dormancy, and survival will depend upon specific location and environmental factors.

Where can I buy Kurapia?

Kurapia can be purchased as plugs or sod.

Plugs:

Florasource, Ltd.
P.O. Box 758 San Clemente, CA 92674
Tel: 949-498-1131
http://www.kurapiaplugs.com/

EcoTech Services, Inc
2143 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016
Tel 626-788-5652
http://www.kurapiadirect.com/

EcoLawn S. B.
2409 Calle Soria
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Tel: 805-270-2960
http://ecolawnsb.com/
Limited to Santa Barbara County only.

For more information, please see Kurapia.com.

Sod:
West Coast Turf
PO Box 4563
Palm Desert, CA 92261
Tel: 760-340-7300
https://www.westcoastturf.com/Kurapia-Drought-Tolerant-Ground-Cover

Delta Bluegrass Company
PO Box 307, Stockton, CA 95201
Tel: 209-969-4679
http://www.deltabluegrass.com/kurapia-new

Are different cultivars available?
Currently, only one cultivar is commercially available; however, additional cultivars, one that produces pink flowers and another with greater cold tolerance, will be available soon.

How much water does Kurapia need?
Kurapia has similar water requirements as most warm-season turfgrasses (i.e., approx. 50-60% replacement of evapotranspiration (ET). Once established, Kurapia will survive with even less water depending on aesthetic preference, requiring irrigation once a week or longer depending on temperature and ET. In general, Kurapia does not like wet feet. In other words, avoid excessive irrigation. On the other hand, establishment of Kurapia or any drought tolerant plant species is not the time to withhold water. Thus light, frequent irrigation is warranted during the establishment period.

Is Kurapia susceptible to diseases?
In general, California's climate is not conducive to frequent disease activity. However, occasionally the combination of heat and humidity coupled with frequent or heavy irrigation can incite various soil-borne fungal diseases in Kurapia including southern blight and *Pythium*. The best prevention is to avoid over irrigation, especially when Kurapia establishes into a dense canopy. If a fungicide application is needed, a product like Heritage (azoxystrobin) fungicide should provide effective disease control.

How do I control weeds in Kurapia?
In general, weeds are best controlled preventatively using preemergence herbicides like prodiamine, metolachlor, or pronamide at planting or in August-September (winter annuals) and January-February (summer annuals). Sedge (and some broadleaf and grass weeds) can be controlled using halosulfuron, sulfosulfuron, or trifloxysulfuron on mature Kurapia; however, Kurapia disruption of flower production and foliar injury can be expected. Postemergence broadleaf weed control is challenging given that Kurapia is a broadleaf species. Three-way mixes containing 2,4-D, MCPP, and dicamba will cause considerable injury to Kurapia flowers and foliage, but the groundcover will recover in time. Postemergence grass control can be achieved with products containing fluazifop or sethoxydim.

For more information, please see Kurapia.com.