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EFFECTS OF A SOIL-APPLIED FORTIFIED *ASCOPHYLLUM NODOSUM* EXTRACT ON THE VISUAL QUALITY OF *ZOYSIA* TURFGRASS

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Experiments were conducted to determine the influence of soil applications of a fortified seaweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) extract (SWE) on the aesthetic quality of a residential zoysia turfgrass during the dry season in a tropical area. Aqueous solutions of a fortified SEW (regular extract + proprietary formulation of humic acid, carbohydrates, amino acids, peptides, saponins, betaines, GABA) (ATAN SoF® 0-8 L/ha) were drench-applied in February, when the turf was water-stressed. Aesthetic quality (AQ) was determined weekly for two months using a visual scale of 0 (dead turf) to 9 (excellent aesthetic quality) based on color and vigor. Significant differences in AQ were found for several SEW treatments three weeks after application, and effects were consistent throughout the dry season. Best results were obtained with rates of 4 to 8 L SEW/ha.