

SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON

The germination of ideas

FEATURES

- Top-rated turf-type tall fescues with Kentucky bluegrass selected for compatibility
- Excellent Brown Patch resistance and rapid repair
- Superior density turf with high levels of rhizomes
- High performance in sun and shade
- Excellent sod strength
- High levels of endophyte
- Uses: Ideal for golf course roughs, commercial turf, parks, sports fields and home lawns

BENEFITS

- Reduced maintenance and inputs
- Persistent turf
- High wear tolerance
- Fine textured turf with rich green color
- Superior winter active growth

SEEDING RATES

- Seeds/lbs: 480,000
- New turf:
7–9 lbs/1,000 sq ft
35–45 gr/m²
300–400 lbs/acre
- Overseed Rate:
Approximately half of the
new turf recommendations

ESTABLISHMENT

- Germination: 7–10 days under ideal conditions
- First mowing: 21–30 days
- First limited use in 60–75 days

TROPHY BLUE

T.T. TALL FESCUE/BUEGRASS MIXTURE

Trophy Blue turf-type tall fescue and bluegrass mixture was developed for high quality turf with high levels of rhizome expression from both the tall fescue and bluegrass in dense turf situations. Trophy Blue combines top rated tall fescues with rhizomes with 5 to 10% Kentucky or Texas X Kentucky bluegrass cultivars for a turf that has superior performance for a broad range of uses. Trophy Blue is adapted to all areas where tall fescue is grown for turf, including Mid-Atlantic, North, Southeast, Midwest and the West. The selection of the appropriate bluegrass is dependent on the area and type of use.



Rhizome expression in tall fescues can provide significant advantages in repair of damage from wear or disease. The best tall fescues have rhizomes but must also have high density, fine leaf texture and excellent disease resistance. They must have the ability to establish quickly and persist under all maintenance regimes. The addition of the bluegrass offers additional disease resistance and even quicker recovery time. Trophy Blue also has high levels of viable endophytes to provide natural insect resistance and superior stress tolerance.

Trophy Blue forms a very dark green, high quality turf with improved wear tolerance and rhizome formation. The moderately dwarf growth form combined with the ability to rapidly repair damage makes it ideal for all uses. The tall fescues utilized have high Brown Patch, Leaf Spot and Net Blotch resistance enable it to look good all year, and it recovers rapidly if damage does occur. The bluegrasses add genetic diversity to increase the disease resistance and improve recovery. With Trophy Blue you can have a high quality turf with reduced inputs.



Turf-Type Tall Fescue Management

If you read all the advertisements that have recently appeared, you would think the turf-type tall fescues are miracle grasses. Indeed, for many situations they may perform miracles, being cool season turfgrasses that are very heat, drought and wear tolerant. Tall fescues are the most drought resistant cool season turfgrass species, primarily due to a very well developed root system that can reach depths greater than six feet. This root system allows the plant access to larger ground water reserves. In fact, studies have shown that turf-type tall fescues have better-developed root systems than the older forage types. Often tall fescues are the only cool season turfgrass species that will remain green the entire growing season on a limited water budget. In addition, tall fescues often perform well in shaded areas, where they actually develop a finer texture. Tall fescues can provide an excellent turf for home lawns, athletic fields, golf course roughs and other high traffic areas. However, as with all grasses, they have specific maintenance requirements to obtain the best possible turf.

Seeding Rates

The seeding rate for turf-type tall fescues should range between 4 to 8 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. depending on environmental and site conditions at the time of planting. The lower end of the seeding range will result in slower establishment but will provide a dense, fine textured turf that is more vigorous due to an increase in tillering of individual plants. Higher seeding rates (12 lbs.) should be avoided with turf-type tall fescues because there will be less tillering due to excessive competition. The resulting plants will be weaker and thin out under adverse conditions. Since tall fescues are a bunch type grass, over-seeding may be required at rates of 2-3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. annually. The idea is to keep the density of the stand high so the texture will remain fine; as sensitivity decreases, the leaf texture often becomes coarser. However, recent emphasis in breeding has been towards finer texture and increased tillering so over-seeding may be less necessary with the newest varieties.

Mowing Heights

Turf-type tall fescues look the best when cut at 1.0 to 2.5 inches. Lower heights will result in thin turf. If persistent cutting occurs below the recommended height, there will be a gradual fading out of the tall fescue. This will leave areas open for the invasion of other weedy grasses and the tall fescue will develop into a coarse bladed turf with a weedy appearance. Initial trials suggest some of the newest varieties may tolerate a closer cut if other environmental factors are at optimum.

Adaptation

Tall fescues are best adapted to areas of the transitional zones, between the cool humid and warm humid regions of the United States. Tall fescue will also perform well in the arid regions of the Western United States provided water is available. Increasingly, the turf-types are being utilized in additional area where their drought resistance is an advantage, alone or in combination with Kentucky bluegrass. Tall fescues are adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions, from droughty soils to wet. They even can tolerate periods of sub-mersion. Although they will grow on infertile soils, tall fescue does respond to fertilization. Tall fescues can also tolerate pH ranges from 4.7 to 8.5, but does best in soils with a pH ranging from 5.5 to 6.5.

Dwarf Types

Dwarf varieties of turf-type tall fescue have a slower rate of leaf growth. However, they will produce more tillers per unit area than do non-dwarf varieties, leading to a denser turf. The dwarf types may possess a finer leaf texture and a more prostrate growth habit than do non-dwarf varieties. The degree of dwarfness is related to the genetic inheritance of a variety. This factor will also influence the rate of establishment. The more dwarf the variety, the slower the establishment will be. The wear tolerance and recuperative potential may also be reduced in the more dwarfed varieties. Due to the higher density achieved with the dwarf varieties; there may be more incidence of disease such as brown patch, fusarium blight and pythium.