

SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON

The germination of ideas

FEATURES

- Dense, fine leaf texture
- Bright, dark green color
- High endophyte level for pest resistance
- Excellent heat and drought tolerance
- Uses: Golf course roughs, athletic fields, parks and lawns

BENEFITS

- Low maintenance
- Wear tolerance
- Mows easily; can tolerate more frequent cutting at lower heights
- Superior turf performance under adverse conditions
- Excellent shade tolerance

SEEDING RATES

- Seeds/lb: 220,000
- New turf:
8–10 lbs/1,000 sq ft
350–400 lbs/acre
- Overseed rate:
6–8 lbs/1,000 sq ft
250–350 lbs/acre

ESTABLISHMENT

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

SURVIVOR

TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE BLEND

Survivor turf-type tall fescue blend is an excellent blend of turf-type tall fescues. The new turf-type tall fescues that make up the Survivor blend were developed to greatly improve on the appearance of the older tall fescues while retaining their ability to survive under heat and drought conditions, in poor soils, and under low maintenance.



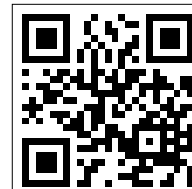
Performance

Survivor has good resistance to turf diseases such as: Helminthosporium Net Blotch, Rhizoctonia Brown Patch and Crown Rust. Some varieties in Survivor contain endophyte giving it improved resistance to the following turf insects: white grub, sod webworms, billbugs, chinch bugs, armyworms, and aphids. The presence of the endophyte also contributes to improved stress tolerance with better Summer survival, enhanced fall recovery, and reduced weed invasion. It has also been shown to provide resistance to some nematodes.

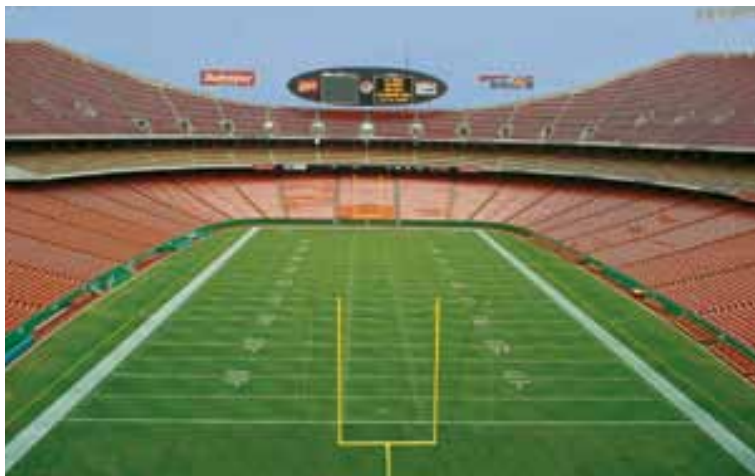
Adaptation

The extremely long root system is the secret to Survivor's drought tolerance. This means less frequent irrigation because the roots can reach as deep as six feet in the soil to absorb water.

Survivor has exhibited excellent wear tolerance and very good cold tolerance. It will perform best in a fertile, well drained loam soil, but can tolerate less than perfect conditions. Survivor will withstand soils that have a heavy clay content or are compacted. Tall fescues can withstand saturated soils longer than other turf species and tolerate a wide range of soil



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.