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Arkansas Valley Seed carries a wide variety of turfgrass species and varieties. If you do not see the species that you are looking for please call us. As always, call for current pricing and availability.

TURFGRASS PLANTING & ESTABLISHMENT



For turfgrass sites, select species that are suitable for the area in question. Kentucky bluegrass will be the best choice for high traffic areas. Fine fescues or Buffalograss will be better suited where low maintenance is a must. Turf is best suited on large, relatively flat areas that slope away from buildings and should not be considered for steep slopes and isolated islands where runoff can be an issue. Native grasses and plants are better suited for those areas.

Soil preparation should be your number one priority when establishing a lawn in your landscape. It is essential that the proper steps be taken to ensure that your lawn is healthy and will survive periods of hot and

dry weather. The soils in the Rocky Mountain region are typically very low in organic matter. To prepare a sandy soil, we recommend 3 to 5 cubic yards of weed free organic matter (sphagnum peat and/or compost) tilled in to a depth of 4 to 6 inches for every 1,000 square feet of desired turf. On clay soils, 2 to 4 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet is adequate. Clay soils can also benefit from the addition of other inorganic amendments containing pumice to assist in increasing porosity and improving water infiltration. Subsoil ripping to a depth of 10 to 12 inches may be required to break-up hard pans in some soils. A good healthy lawn with a strong root system will reduce the water use significantly and is also the best defense against weed invasion, disease and insect pests. Good soil prep has been shown to save up to 30% of the water required for the landscape.

Starting a lawn from seed has several advantages. Seeding will allow direct root establishment in the soil at the site. It is cost-effective and requires less labor. When starting a new lawn from seed, prepare the soil as described above and incorporate a starter fertilizer. We recommend a fertilizer ratio (N – P – K) of 18–46–0 at a rate of 5 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Frequent and light waterings are needed until the seed has germinated. The soil surface must remain moist, but not saturated, for proper germination and establishment to occur. You should not allow the top $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of seedbed to become dry during the establishment period. Mulch can be added to the soil surface to prevent evaporation and conserve soil moisture. Once the lawn has established, normally after the first couple of mowings, watering can be reduced. Watering should be done during the cooler parts of the day, specifically during the morning and evening hours.

Fertilizing is highly recommended to maintain the health of your lawn. Adequate spring moisture will activate the fertilizer and release the nutrients to the turf. During the spring, the ideal fertilizer will include a mixture of both quickly and slowly available Nitrogen (N) sources. Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) are also highly recommended nutrients to supplement to your soil. Phosphorus stimulates root growth throughout the growing season and Potassium enhances your lawn's tolerance to heat and other stresses. Kentucky bluegrass and other cool season grasses normally should be fertilized during the cooler parts of the growing season (early May and September). Buffalograss requires less fertilizer and is best fertilized during the warmer parts of the growing season (mid June and August).

Lawn aeration is highly recommended in the spring. Core aeration will decrease compaction and improve penetration of water, air and nutrients into root zones. It assists in the reduction of run-off and the build-up of thatch, an organic layer that often impedes the movement of water into the soil.



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KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, *Poa pratensis*

Kentucky bluegrass is the most widely used cool-season turfgrass in the Rocky Mountain region. It is most commonly used on home lawns, parks, cemeteries, institutional grounds, airfields, roadsides, golf course fairways and athletic fields because of its ability to withstand high turf injury. It prefers to be mowed at 1½ to 2½ inches. Select new varieties can be mowed down to a half inch for golf course fairways and tees. One of the biggest advantages is its extensive rooting and rhizomatous structure. Rhizomes are underground stems that allow the plant to repair itself quickly and survive through prolonged periods of stress. They also allow it to knit and present a dense turf. Kentucky bluegrass thrives in full sun and partial shade. It prefers a loam soil but can survive the extremes of sand or clay soils. Kentucky bluegrass exhibits excellent cold tolerance in the harsh winters of the Rocky Mountain region. Leaf texture of this species is fine to medium. Most have a dark green color.



Courtesy of Turf Producers International

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CLASSIFICATION - RUTGERS TURFGRASS PROCEEDINGS

The following characteristics are for general observation only. Individual performance of varieties within each classification may vary widely and require comparative regional NTEP results to determine the best performing variety. Arkansas Valley can provide varieties from each classification, please call for a list of the newest Kentucky bluegrasses on the market today.

COMPACT TYPE

- Low, compact growth
- High quality turf
- ½ inch cutting height
- Excellent resistance to leaf spot
- Long winter dormancy
- Variable under summer stress
- Often purple winter color

MIDNIGHT TYPE

- Characteristics of compact type
- Very dark green color
- ½ inch cutting height
- Late spring green-up
- Good heat tolerance
- Susceptible to powdery mildew
- Variable resistance to summer patch

AMERICA TYPE

- Characteristics of compact type
- Finer leaf, higher density
- ½ inch cutting height
- Moderate winter dormancy
- Moderate summer recovery
- High summer patch resistance
- Resistant to powdery mildew
- Good in shade

AGGRESSIVE TYPE

- Aggressive lateral growth
- High shoot density
- Very wear tolerant
- Quickly knit sod and repair
- May predominate in blend
- Variable in other characteristics

BELLEVUE TYPE

- Medium growth and shoot density
- Medium wide leaves
- Excellent winter color
- Early spring green-up
- Stemmy in spring
- Moderate recovery from summer stress
- Good leaf spot, stripe smut resistance
- Susceptible to billbugs

MID-ATLANTIC TYPE

- Deep, extensive roots and rhizomes
- Vigorous turf and medium-high density
- High summer stress tolerance
- Early spring green-up
- Good winter performance
- Rapid recovery from disease
- Leaf spot susceptible

CELA TYPE

- Better spring green-up than compact
- Less stemmy than Bellevue type
- Good turf quality
- Good stripe smut, leaf spot resistance
- Variable winter performance

BVMG TYPE

- High seed yields
- Medium-good turf
- Stripe smut susceptible
- Medium low growth
- Medium wide leaf
- Very stemmy turf
- Poor winter performance
- Resistant to leaf spot
- Billbug susceptible

SHAMROCK TYPE

- Moderate winter color
- Good resistance to leaf spot
- Good turf quality and sod strength
- Billbug susceptible
- High seed yields
- Less stemmy than BVMG
- Summer performance variable

CHERI TYPE

- Good Turf Quality
- Medium low growth, density and leaf width
- Good resistance to stripe smut
- Good sod strength
- Moderate resistance to leaf spot
- High seed yields
- Less stemmy than BVMG
- Moderate winter dormancy

JULIA TYPE

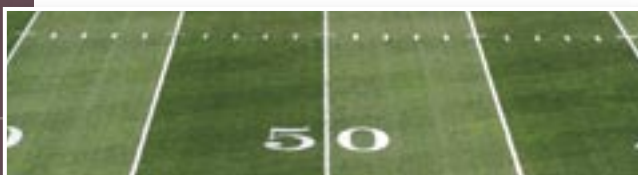
- High turf quality
- Excellent wear tolerance
- High density
- Good summer performance
- Moderate winter performance
- Good leaf spot, stripe smut resistance
- Susceptible to brown patch, dollar spot

COMMON TYPE

- Exhibits traits that are intermediate between groups
- Additional study required to classify

OTHER TYPE

- Midwest Ecotypes
- Erect growth and narrow leaf blades
- Good summer stress tolerance
- May go dormant during summer
- High leaf spot susceptibility
- Poor winter color and performance
- Early seed production
- Good for soil stabilization and conservation



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PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, *Lolium perenne*

Perennial Ryegrass is one of the world's most widely used turf grasses. Its popularity comes from its ability to germinate in 7 to 10 days or less. This fine-bladed turf grass is preferred by many home owners because of its dark color, strong root system, its fast response to fertilization and its rapid recovery from trampling. A cool-season grass, Perennial Ryegrass can adapt to many different kinds of soil, including poor soils, clay, and badly drained areas. A high level of endophytes allows this species to perform well under stress. Turf-type Perennial Ryegrass is a hardy grass that has been used in almost every premier sporting event and on the world's finest golf courses. This bunch type grass likes full sun but will tolerate some shade and can be mowed as short as $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch.



Courtesy of Turf Producers International

TALL FESCUE, *Festuca arundinacea*

Tall Fescue is a bunch grass that is more drought, shade, heat stress and disease tolerant than many other cool season grasses. Tall fescues can provide an excellent turf for home lawns, athletic fields, golf course roughs and other high traffic areas. The roots can grow to a depth of 4 to 6 feet taking in moisture that shallow rooted grasses can't reach. New and improved varieties are naturally insect resistant due to high levels of endophytes. When mowing, it prefers to be mowed at 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches. Most Tall Fescues don't mix well with the other species. It is shade and drought tolerant, coarse textured, wide-bladed and adapted to various soil types and climates. Some of the newest varieties that are commercially available exhibit some rhizome capability similar to a Kentucky bluegrass.



Courtesy of Turf Producers International

FINE FESCUES, *Festuca ssp.*

- Chewings, *Festuca rubra* var. *falax*
- Strong Creeping Red, *Festuca rubra* var. *rubra*
- Slender Creeping Red, *Festuca rubra* var. *litoralis*
- Hard, *Festuca brevipila*
- Sheep, *Festuca ovina*
- Blue, *Festuca ovina* var. *glauca*

Fine Fescues are a shade tolerant turf grass with a medium to dark green color. They require little maintenance and like to be mowed at 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The fine fescues are excellent choices for low maintenance sites, even as a part of showcase turf areas, due to their reduced water requirements, low nitrogen and reduced growth rates. They typically persist in soils that are droughty, acid and infertile, if the soils are properly drained. Fine fescues also perform well in the shade and with tree root competition, so they can be utilized in areas where many other turfgrasses will not persist.

The five primary types used for turf, Chewings, strong creeping red, slender creeping red, hard and sheeps or blue fescue, all have unique strengths, weaknesses and preferred uses. Areas such as golf course roughs, slopes, and bunker edges, parks, home lawns, roadsides and reclamation areas can all benefit from the use of improved fine fescues for high quality, low maintenance turf.



Courtesy of Turf Producers International

CREEPING BENTGRASS, *Agrostis palustris*

Creeping Bentgrass is a long-lived perennial grass. It is mainly used for golf greens and tees, croquet, lawn bowling, lawn tennis and for divot repair on fairways. You will find this high quality, attractive grass on almost every championship golf course where it is adapted. It's the finest bladed, lowest growing, highest maintenance of the cool season turf grasses. Establishment for this soft, dense grass is slow to normal and it requires a well prepared seed bed with good drainage. Creeping Bentgrass spreads laterally, requiring more controlled management and making its use in home lawns and parks limited. This dense turf grass performs great when closely mowed at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, fertilized and watered consistently. Creeping Bentgrass grows best in full sun but will survive in light shade. Because of the growth habit, Creeping Bentgrass doesn't blend well with other grasses.



Courtesy of Turf Producers International

BERMUDAGRASS, *Cynodon dactylon*

Bermudagrass is a warm season sod forming perennial that spreads by stolons, rhizomes and seed. Bermudagrass has a fibrous root system with vigorous, deep rhizomes. Bermudagrass is a major turf species for sports fields, lawns, parks, golf courses, and general utility turfs in the southern region of the US. Bermudagrass has very good drought tolerance, traffic tolerance and can handle poor water quality compared to other turfgrasses. Due to its poor winter performance, the development of cold tolerant turf-type varieties of bermudagrass has increased interest in the species.

TEXAS HYBRID BLUEGRASS, *Poa arachnifera x Poa pratensis*

Texas hybrid bluegrass is a cool season, perennial cross between Kentucky bluegrass and Texas bluegrass. It produces a turf that has improved heat and drought tolerance that is derived from the Texas bluegrass while maintaining excellent turf characteristics and uniformity typical of Kentucky bluegrass. Seed size, seeding rates, germination, establishment and handling is very similar to Kentucky bluegrass. It will establish well and persist under conditions of drought that would cause other species to die off or become dormant.

COLONIAL BENTGRASS, *Agrostis capillaris*

Colonial Bentgrass is a cool-season perennial bunch grass. Much like Creeping and Velvet Bentgrass, Colonial Bentgrass is mainly found on golf course greens, tees, fairways, croquet courts, tennis courts and lawn bowling greens. It is a low maintenance grass whose color ranges from greenish yellow to medium dark green. This perennial turf grass is a native to Europe and is utilized all over the Pacific Northwest and Northeast. Its spreading tolerance is minimal compared to Creeping Bentgrass yet it produces less thatch and does not require a close mowing. Colonial Bentgrass does require a well prepared seed bed when planting, frequent irrigation and a high level of fertilizer. This fine bladed grass blends well with fine fescues and is slow to establish.

ROUGH BLUEGRASS, *Poa trivialis*

Poa trivialis is a shallow rooted perennial that thrives in dense shade where other turf grasses struggle and also used for overseeding golf greens in the southern region of the US. It can germinate in 6-10 days for quick establishment. *Poa trivialis* spreads with stolons to help establishment and flourish in moist soils. This grass is not recommended for high traffic areas.

SUPINA BLUEGRASS, *Poa supina*

Supina bluegrass is a stoloniferous, cool season perennial turfgrass recently introduced into the temperate regions of the US from Europe. It establishes slowly from seed, but forms a dense, yellow-green turf. It is quite wear and shade tolerant, but intolerant of drought. It has been planted alone, as well as mixed with Kentucky bluegrass in athletic turf mixes.

VELVET BENTGRASS, *Agrostis canina*

Velvet Bentgrass is one of the finest textured turfs available. Its beauty is used on golf greens, lawn bowling and anywhere that requires close mowing. When planting this grass it likes a well prepared seed bed and is slow to establish. This long-lived perennial grass grows best on well drained acidic soils. Velvet Bentgrass develops an extremely dense turf that spreads more than Colonial Bentgrass. Like Creeping and Colonial Bentgrass, Velvet Bentgrass doesn't blend well with other grasses because of its growth habit.

ANNUAL RYEGRASS, *Lolium multiflorum*

Arkansas Valley does not recommend Annual Ryegrass for turf applications. The species presents a weedy appearance when mixed with other proprietary turf species. Please call us to discuss other options.

See Grass Species Section for more information on this species.