

Festuca arundinacea

(Tall fescue)

Tall fescue is a cool-season grass, well adapted to sunny or partially shady areas. When densely sown, a pure stand forms a moderate to coarse-textured lawn. It tolerates warm summer temperatures and stays green during cool, but not severe winter conditions. It has a bunch-type growth habit. Low maintenance. Tall fescue has excellent tolerance for heat stress and drought. It will tolerate moderate traffic and infrequent mowing.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: fétuque faux roseau

Pronunciation: fes-TOO-kuh a-run-din-uh-KEE-uh

Plant Type: Lawn

Origin: Europe

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Hardiness Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Uses: Sports Field, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow

Tree Shape: Spreading

Height at Maturity: Less than 0.5 m

Spread at Maturity: Less than 50 cm

Time to Ultimate Height: 1 Year

Notes

Tall fescue is one of the most drought, heat and wear tolerant species. Due to its large and deep root system, it is able to take up water in dry periods when other grasses have stopped their growth. It stays green in dry summer periods and tolerates high temperatures. The leaf texture is rather coarse compared to other turf grasses, but new varieties have narrower leaves and density. The leaf color of tall fescue is normally dark green. Winterhardiness varied depending on the type. Mediterranean types are less winterhardy, but continental types have good winterhardiness. Tall fescue establishes quickly, but not quite as fast as perennial ryegrass. The disease tolerance is very high.

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Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Spiral

Leaf Venation: Parallel

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Linear

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

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Horticulture Management

Tolerance

- Frost Tolerant:** Yes
 - Heat Tolerant:** No
 - Drought Tolerant:** Yes
 - Salt Tolerance:** Moderate
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Requirements

- Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand
 - Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline
 - Water Requirements:** Moderate
 - Light Requirements:** Full, Part
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Management

- Edible Parts:**
 - Plant Propagations:**
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