

RUTGERS CORNER

Tall Fescue Varieties for NJ Athletic Fields

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Compared to other cool-season grasses, tall fescue has the capacity to develop a deep root system that provides tolerance or avoidance of drought stress. This grass can also survive under reduce fertility, high temperatures, and tolerates insects better than many other cool-season grasses. Although short rhizomes are often observed on some plants, tall fescue has a bunch-type growth habit. Emergence of tall fescue seed occurs within 5 to 7 days in warm moist soil.

Knowing the variety of tall fescue is important because newer improved varieties will produce higher quality turf with greater persistence and less input of energy than older varieties. The good wear tolerance of well-established tall fescue make this grass a possible choice for athletic fields and other high traffic sites. Use of athletic fields should be withheld several months after seeding to ensure development of wear tolerance in tall fescue turf. Kentucky bluegrass is commonly mixed with tall fescue to increase the ability of the turf to spread laterally. Such mixtures should consist of one or more Kentucky bluegrass varieties in combination with two or more of the turf-type tall fescue varieties with the following standards (percentage by weight):

5-15% Kentucky Bluegrass
85-95% Tall Fescue (see Table 1)

NOTE: Use rust resistant, lower maintenance Kentucky bluegrass varieties such as the Bellevue Type; Mid-Atlantic Type; and Aspen, Cheri, Ram I, and NuStar. For more information on Kentucky bluegrass varieties see Rutgers Cooperative Extension publication FS738 at <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/fs738.pdf>

Table 1. Recommended high quality turf-type tall fescue varieties.

Alamo E+ Anthem II	Finelawn Petite Finesse	Rembrandt Scorpion
Apache II Arid 2	Focus Gazelle	ShenandoahII Southern
Arid 3 Biltmore	Genesis Houndog V	Choice
Aztec II Bingo	Jaguar 3 Lion	SR 8250 SR 8500
Bonsai 2000 Brandy	Masterpiece Millennium	SR 8600 Sunpro
Bravo Bulldawg Chapel	Olympic Gold Picasso	Tar Heel Tomahawk E+
Hill Coronado Gold	Plantation Prospect	Watchdog Wolfpack
Coyote Crossfire II	Reel Exeda Rebel 2000	Wyatt
Empress Falcon II	Rebel Sentry Regiment	

Rutgers Calendar

December 11-13, 2001

New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2001, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. Call.732-821-7134 or 856-853-5973

January 10-11, 2001

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Symposium, Foran Hall, New Brunswick, NJ. Call 732-932-9400 for information

January 7-11 and Feb. 11-15, 2002

Athletic Field Management School, Call (732) 932-9271

February 26-28, 2002

Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance. (732) 932-9271

Rutgers Websites

Center for Turfgrass Science

<http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~turf>

Turfgrass Management Program

<http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~murphy>

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

<http://www.rce.rutgers.edu>