

SOIL ADAPTATIONS OF THE MORE IMPORTANT TURF GRASSES

Good grass turf is conditioned by two important factors, climate and soil. The latter can be modified but the former must be accepted as it is. Since our climate cannot be greatly changed to suit the grasses, the only practical thing to do is to make the soil conditions as nearly ideal as possible. It is a well-established principle of plant culture that the more unfavorable the climatic conditions are, the more favorable must all other conditions be to insure success, and grass is no exception to this rule. In the accompanying table are given the soil adaptations of the more important turf grasses.

Name	Time Required to Produce Turf	Moisture	Texture	Minimum Fertility	Optimum pH	Uses	Remarks
Red Top	One Season	Moist or Dry Soils	Clay loam or loam	Tolerates poor soils	5.5-6.5	Nurse or Temporary Grass in fairways, greens, lawns	Sods by short creeping stems; makes a quick temporary turf; lasts only 1-2 years when kept closely mowed.
Colonial Bent Rhode Island Bent Astoria Bent	One Season	Well drained moist soils	Loams or sandy loams if well drained	Moderately fertile	5.5-6.5	Greens, fairways, lawns	Sods slowly by stolons, produces a fine turf.
Creeping Bent Seaside Bent	1 season from seed, 2 months from stolon	Well drained moist soils	Loams	Moderately fertile soil	5.5-6.5	Greens, fairways	Sods rapidly by stolons; makes dense fine turf; injures heal quickly; difficult to maintain.
Velvet Bent	One Season	Well drained moist soils or moderately dry soils	Loams to sandy loams	Moderately fertile soil	5.5-6.5	Greens, lawns	Sods slowly by creeping stems; seed supply limited; ideal for putting greens.
Kentucky Blue	Two Seasons	Well drained moist soils; not adapted to dry soils	Clay loam and loam	Medium to good soils	6.0-8.0	Fairways, lawns	Sods slowly by short underground stems; not resistant to drought but recovers quickly. Makes a good sod on fertile soil.
Canada Blue	Two Seasons	Tolerant of dry soils	Clay, sand or shale	Tolerates very poor soils	5.0-8.0	Fairways rough	Forms open coarse sod by underground stems; resistant to summer heat and drought; makes poor appearance.
Rough-stalked Meadow Grass (<i>Poa trivialis</i>)	Two Seasons	Moist, well-drained soils	Clay loam and loams	Medium to good soils	6.0-8.0	Fairways, lawns	Sods slowly by underground stems; produces good turf in damp, shady locations; not resistant to drought or heat.
<i>Poa annua</i>	One Season	Moist, well-drained soils	Loams and clay loams	Thrives where bents will not grow	5.0-7.0	Greens, fairways, lawns	Forms dense sod; creeps sparingly; thrives in shady areas; seeds and dies in mid-summer; thrives in cool moist weather of spring and fall.
Chewing's Red Fescue	One Season	Moist, well-drained soils, tolerant of dry soils	Sandy loams but tolerates clay loams and clays	Tolerates infertile soils	5.0-6.5	Greens, fairways, lawns	Grows in open and shade, creeps slowly, very durable turf, uniform sod when established.
Sheeps Fescue	One Season	Tolerant of dry soils	"	"	5.0-6.5	Rough	Bunch forming habit of growth, makes poor appearing turf.
Hard Fescue, (European Red Fescue)	One Season	Tolerant of dry soils	"	"	5.0-6.5	Rough	Bunch forming habit of growth, makes poor appearing turf.
Fine-Leafed Fescue	One Season	Tolerant of dry soils	"	"	5.0-6.5	Lawns	Bunch forming habit of growth, thrives in shady areas.