

Cool Season Turf Grasses

COMPILED BY THE LAWN INSTITUTE, ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS

Turf Grasses	Bentgrasses (<i>Agrostis</i>)		Bluegrasses (<i>Poa</i>)			Fescues (<i>Festuca</i>)		Ryegrasses (<i>Lolium</i>)		
	Colonial <i>A. tenuis</i>	Creeping <i>A. palustris/A. stolonifera</i>	Annual <i>P. annua</i>	Kentucky <i>P. pratensis</i>	Rough <i>P. trivialis</i>	Fine or Red <i>F. rubra spp.</i>	Fine or Sheep <i>F. ovina</i>	Tall <i>F. arundinacea</i>	Annual <i>L. multiflorum</i>	Perennial <i>L. perenne</i>
Cultivated varieties (cultivars) as of 2007	<6	28	1	161	<6	10	25	169	200,000 to 300,000	198
Seeds / pound	5.5 to 9 million	7.5 million	med. (2-3 mm) bunch or stolons low	1.3 to 1.8 million med. (2-4 mm) strong rhizomes good	2.5 million fine (1-4 mm) stolons low	409,000 to 430,000 fine (0.5-1.5 mm) creeping rhizomes good	530,000 fine (0.5 to 1.5 mm) bunch medium	230,000 to 250,000 coarse (5-10 mm) bunch (some w/weak rhizomes) medium	coarse (3-7 mm) bunch poor	medium (2-5 mm) bunch medium
Description	med. (1-3 mm) bunch medium	medium (2-3 mm) creeping stolons medium	low	medium good	low good	fair medium	poor good	poor good	poor medium	fair poor
Environmental Adaptation	medium good	medium excellent	poor	medium poor-medium	poor excellent	good excellent	good excellent	good good	medium poor	fair medium
Heat hardness	medium	medium	low	medium	low	good	good	good	poor	poor
Cold hardness	good	excellent	poor	good	good	medium	good	medium	poor	poor
Killing Temperature (F°)	fair	poor	poor	medium	poor	good	good	good	medium	fair
Drought resistance	medium	good	poor	poor-medium	poor	excellent	excellent	good	poor	medium
Shade adaptation	poor	poor-medium	poor	poor-medium	poor	medium	medium	medium	poor	good
Salt tolerance	poor	poor	poor	medium	poor	medium	medium	good	poor	good
Wear tolerance	medium	good	poor	good	medium	medium	poor	poor	poor	poor
Recuperative potential	medium	good	fair	medium	good	fair	poor	poor	poor	poor
Submersion tolerance										fair
Establishment										
Pounds of Seed/1,000 sq. ft.	0.75 to 2	0.75 to 2	68-89	2 to 3	1 to 2	4 to 6	3 to 4.5	6 to 10	7 to 10	4 to 7
Optimum temp. for germination (F°)	59-86	59-86	seeded excellent	59-86	59-86	59-77	59-77	68-86	68-86	68-86
Establishment method	seeded	seeded/vegetative	seeded	seeded/vegetative	seeded	seeded	seeded	seeded	seeded	seeded
Establishment rate	poor	poor	excellent	medium	medium	good	good	excellent	excellent	excellent
Days to germinate	7 to 14	7 to 14	fast	8 to 21	10 to 21	10 to 21	10 to 21	10 to 14	7 to 14	5 to 12
Growth rate	fast	fast	fast	fast	fast	slow-medium	slow-medium	fast	fast	fast
Days to first mowing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14-21	n/a	n/a
Sod formation	medium	good	poor	excellent	poor	good	medium	poor	poor	poor
Cultural Requirements										
pH	5.5 to 6.7	5.5 to 6.5	5.5 to 6.5	6.0 to 7.0	6.0 to 7.0	5.5 to 6.5	5.0 to 6.0	4.7 to 8.5	6.0 to 7.0	6.0 to 7.0
Cultural (maintenance) intensity	medium	high	high	medium	medium	low	low	medium	medium	medium
Cutting height (inches)	0.4 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.7	0.2 to 1.0	0.5 to 3.0	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 2.5	2.0 to 2.5	1.7 to 3.0	1.5 to 2.5	0.5 to 1.5
Mowing frequency (days)	1 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 3	5 to 7	5 to 7	7	7	7 to 14	5 to 7	5 to 7
Nitrogen (lbs/1000/month)	0.5 to 1.0	0.5 to 1.4	0.5 to 1.0	0.4 to 1.0	0.5 to 1.0	0.2 to 0.5	0 to 0.5	0.3 to 0.75	0.4 to 1.0	0.4 to 1.0
Moisture / irrigation	medium	high	high	medium	high	low	low	medium	medium	medium
Evapotranspiration rate (ET) (mm d ⁻¹)	high	> 10	> 10	> 10	> 10	7 - 8.5	7 - 8.5	> 10	> 10	8.5 - 10
Need for Dethatching	high	high	medium	medium	medium	medium	medium	low	low	low

Note: It is important to understand that the "ratings" are based on the average of averages within a species and that a particular characteristic of one variety within a species may be higher or lower than the same characteristic for a variety of a different species. This chart should only be used as a basic guideline and beginning point when selecting turfgrass for a specific purpose or site.