

ALTERNATIVE TURF: TALL FESCUE

Tall fescue is a common lawn grass option that uses about the same amount of water as bluegrass, however it has several advantages when a low-maintenance, traditional lawn is desired.

BENEFITS

- **Fewer brown spots** than Kentucky bluegrass in mild drought conditions.
- **Traditional lawn** with dark green color and attractive texture.
- **Doesn't invade** flower and vegetable beds by spreading over/under edging.
- **Few insect and disease problems.**
- **Traffic tolerant.**
- **Performs slightly better than Kentucky bluegrass** under low maintenance conditions in shady areas.

WATER SAVINGS

- In dry winters, tall fescue should be watered once per month to prevent winter kill.
- In order to water efficiently, keep area to a reasonable size.

INSTALLATION

- Best time to plant: April through September. Optimal is Aug. 1- Sept. 15.
- Install as sod rather than seed for best results.
- Requires regular watering for several weeks after planting while it forms new roots.

Visit csu.org for water-wise information, irrigation rebates and instructional videos.



TIPS FOR GRASS SELECTION

DON'T use tall fescue if:

- You want a grass with significantly more water savings than Kentucky bluegrass.
- Your yard has heavier than normal foot traffic.
- Your soil is compacted.
- You don't plan to water, mow and fertilize regularly. There are better low-maintenance options.



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