

Selecting Turfgasses for Lawns

A Comparison of turfgrasses, growth characteristics, environmental requirements and management strategies.

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Grass Blend or Mixture ¹ (New improved cultivars are recommended.)	% of Each Grass by Weight	Potential Quality	Texture	Light Needs ²	Maintenance Requirements (Cost & Care)	Irrigation Needs	Potential Pest Problems (Insect & disease)	Seedling Rate (lbs/1000 sq ft)
Kentucky Bluegrass ³	100 %	Excellent	Fine	Sun	High	High	High - Moderate	2
Perennial Ryegrass ⁴	100 %	Good	Fine	Sun	Moderate - High	Moderate	High	7 - 10
Tall Fescue ⁵ (Turf-Type)	100 %	V. Good	Coarse	Sun or Partial Shade	Average to Below Average	Low	Low - Moderate	8 - 10
Fine Fescues (Red / Chewing Fescue / etc)	100 %	Good	V. Fine	Partial Shade	Moderate - Low	Low	Low - Moderate	5
Kentucky Bluegrass & Perennial Ryegrass	95-90 % + 5 - 10%	Excellent to Good	Fine	Sun	Average to Above Average	High	High - Moderate	2 - 4
Kentucky Bluegrass & Fine Fescue	30-50% + 50-70%	Good to Excellent	Fine	Sun or Partial Shade	Average	Moderate - Low	Moderate	2 - 5
Turf-Type Tall Fescue & Kentucky Bluegrass	95-90% + 5 - 10 %	Excellent	Medium - Coarse	Sun or Partial Shade	Average to Below Average	Low	Low	8 - 10
Kentucky Bluegrass & Perennial Ryegrass & Fine Fescue	45-60 % + 5-10 % + 50-30%	V. Good to Fair	Fine	Sun or Partial Shade	Moderate - Low	Low	Low	3 - 5

¹ A “blend” of turfgrass is a combination of 2 or more varieties of the same species, i.e. a combination of 2 or more cultivars of Kentucky bluegrasses. A “mixture” of turfgrass is a combination of different turfgrass species, i.e. Kentucky bluegrass combined with perennial ryegrass.

² All turfgrasses require light to grow and be maintained as a lawn. Some will grow in partial shade but none perform well in heavy or complete shade.

³ When planting a Kentucky bluegrass lawn it is recommend using improved cultivars.

⁴ A 100% perennial ryegrass lawn is NOT recommended, use with another grass such as Kentucky bluegrass. Use only Gray Leaf Spot resistant cultivars.

⁵ Use only improved turf-type tall fescue varieties. Do not use "Kentucky 31" tall fescue.

NOTE – a major challenge to growing a healthy lawn is poor quality soils. Compacted soils, subsoil, buried stone and debris all limit the root system and can reduce vigor.