



Choosing Seed for the Lawn

Tips on Buying Seed

The grass will be greener on *your* side of the fence if you select a lawn seed mixture that performs well where it is sown (i.e., high maintenance, sunny location versus densely shaded, low maintenance location). and choose lawn seed mixtures that contain varieties tolerant to New Hampshire’s diverse climate and soil conditions, instead of generic, “no-name” mixtures.

Note: While the market may offer several good lawn mixtures containing improved varieties, they many not be available to those buying in small quantities.

Use	Species/ Mix (% by wt.)	Lbs./1000 sq. ft.
Sun: Moderate to high maintenance	50% Kentucky bluegrass (or more) 25% perennial ryegrass 25% fine fescue (not more)	3-4
Sun: Low maintenance and/or droughty site	50% fine fescue 20% perennial ryegrass 20% Kentucky bluegrass 10% Dutch white clover or 80% Tall fescue 20% Kentucky bluegrass	7-9
Shade: (less than 4 hours full sun)	70% fine fescue 20% perennial ryegrass 10% Kentucky bluegrass (shade tolerant variety)	4-5

Cultural Requirements of Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)

General Provides high quality lawn. Spreading growth habit; slow to germinate in cool weather. The predominant grass found in sod.

Soil Prefers moist, well-drained, fertile soils with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Has poor tolerance in strongly acidic soils (below 5.0)

Fertilizing Requires 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing month.

Mowing Will tolerate various mowing heights, with 2 inches preferred in most home lawns.

Light Does best in open, sunny areas; has poor tolerance for dense shade. Prefers a least 4 hours of full sun per day.

Water Can tolerate drought periods by becoming semi-dormant. Prefers 1 inch of water per week during the summer.

Varieties (partial listing) Blacksburg, Trenton, Majestic, Victa, Baron, Gnome, Adelphi

Cultural Requirements of Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)

General Fast germinating, wear resistant, bunch-type growth habit. Effective in over-seeding and in lawn mixtures. Prone to winter injury.

Soil Similar to Kentucky bluegrass except can tolerate a more acidic soil.

Fertilizing Requires 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing month.

Mowing Can withstand various mowing heights with 2 inches generally recommended. Sharp mower blades required.

Light Prefers sunny, open areas but has good partial shade tolerance.

Watering Requires supplemental irrigation to insure survival during extended drought periods.

Varieties (partial listing) Yorktown III, Prelude II, Pinnacle, SR 4200, Palmer II, Affinity

Cultural Requirements of Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*)

General Low cultural requirements; used primarily in low-maintenance and shaded areas

Soil Well-adapted to dry, sandy, infertile soils having a pH of 5.5 to 6.5. Has poor tolerance to poorly-drained or saline (high salt content) soils.

Fertilizing Grows well under low fertilization levels of 0.2 to 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing month.

Mowing Under most home lawn conditions, red fescue should be cut 2 inches high.

Light Has excellent shade tolerance but won't dominate a Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass stand in open, sunny areas.

Watering Requires minimum irrigation. Turf quality declines if irrigated excessively.

Varieties (partial listing) Reliant, Warwick, Longfellow, SR 3000, Aurora, Jamestown II.

Note: Where trade names are used for identification, no product endorsement is implied nor is discrimination intended against similar materials.

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