

# TALL FESCUE

*Festuca arundinacea*



## ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Europe; wide adaptation in U.S. However, its agronomic use is centralized in the humid mid-South, West Coast, and cool interior regions. It is a cool-season, medium-sized Bunchgrass. Leafy base with ascending culms 1 to 3' tall. Wide dark green leaves. Produces a large volume of deep, coarsely fibrous roots. Winter growth in warmer southern climates and mostly in spring, summer and fall growth at higher latitudes and western states.

## GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Best on deep rich to silty clay soils, but will grow well on all soils with adequate moisture.

Wide pH range, tolerant of moderate saline and acid soils. Will tolerate poorly drained, winter flooding, and fairly high water tables. Not drought-tolerant but survives in 16 to 18" ppt. in cooler regions of northern and western mountains. In the East optimal growth at 20 to 30" ppt.

## CULTURE

Drill seed 1/2 - 1" with good soil and moisture conditions. Drill seeding rate is 4 to 8 lbs. PLS per acre. Increase seeding rate for broadcast seedings and under certain harsh conditions. Seed in the early spring or when water is available to keep new seedlings moist during established period. Seedling vigor is generally good. Control weeds and protect new seedlings from grazing until rooted and mature seedheads produced.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Used for both non-irrigated and irrigated pasture and hay; alone or with legumes; Also used on roads, dikes, waterways, recreational areas and cover crops in orchards. Used over the east and northeast 1/3 of the United States for lawns and turf.

Continuous grazing in humid regions. Periodic grazing to 2 to 4" stubble in sub-humid or irrigated areas to maintain good growth and palatability. Needs annual nitrogen program if legumes not present. Some problems with certain diseases exist in pasture usage. Check with local specialists.

## IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Alta' released from Oregon.  
'Goar' released from California.  
'Fawn' released from Oregon.  
'Kenmount' released from Kentucky and Montana.  
'Kentucky 31' released from Kentucky.  
'Festorina' released from Canada/ Netherlands.  
'Chieftian' dwarf turf type.  
'Rebel' dwarf turf type.  
'Crewcut' dwarf turf type.  
Many other pasture and turf types.

Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

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