

HARD FESCUE

Festuca trachyphylla / longifolia



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced into North America. Originated in the Baltic States to the Carpathian Mountains through central Europe to the Atlantic. Cool-season, long-lived, bunchgrass. Few upright culms 1 to 3' tall. Numerous fine, rough, blue-green basal leaves with narrow, inrolled leaf-blades. Larger European form of sheep fescue, but also low-growing selections for low maintenance turf.

GROWTH HABITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

Thrives on deep, fertile, silty and clayey soils. Less productive on lighter, rockier, and shallow-

er soils. Tolerant of weakly saline, alkaline, and acid soils. Not tolerant of flooding, high water tables, or inundation. Grows in well-drained meadows, sub-humid grasslands, and semi-desert sagebrush sites.

CULTURE

Plant seed 1/4 – 1/2" deep on coarse textured soils and 1/4" or shallower on fine-textured soils. Better stands obtained on firm seedbed. Drill a minimum of 1.5 to 3.0 lbs. PLS per acre for satisfactory stands on rangelands. Increase rate 50–100% for harsh sites and when broadcasting. Because stands are slow to establish, hard fescue is frequently seeded with fast-developing species such as slender wheatgrass. Seed in early spring at lower altitudes with reliable moisture in late fall with uncertain moisture and at lower mountain elevations, or in spring as early as possible, at higher mountain elevations.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Both forage and turf grass type varieties are widely used for turf, golf greens, revegetation and soil conservation purposes. Suitable on irrigated sites or sites having over 14" ppt., as it is less drought-tolerant than sheep fescue. Growth starts in March or April, matures in mid to late summer, varying regionally and altitudinally, then becomes semi-dormant until fall moisture. Makes fair fall regrowth.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

'Durar' released from Washington.

Other releases:

Turf types: 'Attila', 'Aurora', 'Barcrown', 'Bardur', 'Barreppo', 'Biljar', 'Brigade', 'EcoStar', 'Eureka', 'Gladiator', 'HF 9032', 'Nordic', 'PST-4hd', 'Reliant', 'Scaldis', 'Silvana', 'Spartan', 'SR 3100', 'Waldina', and 'Warick'.



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