

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Poa pratensis



ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Introduced from Europe widely naturalized in U.S. Short to medium height, cool season, and dense sod forming perennial grass. Densely tufted and turf forming with shallow, abundant, widely spreading rhizomes. Leaves dark blue, mostly basal, soft textured. Inflorescence an open panicle, pyramidal or conical shaped.

GROWTH HABIT AND ENVIRONMENT PREFERENCES

Thrives in moist, cool, temperate climates, fertile sandy to clayey alluvial soils high in organic matter; likes soils of limestone origin. Sur-

vives, but low growth on sands, dense clays and thin, rocky moisture soils. Weakly tolerant of acid, and salty soils.

CULTURE

Drill no deeper than 1/4" on heavier soils and 1/2" on lighter textured soils. Often broadcasted and rolled or cultipacked to press seed into surface soil. Supplemental mulch improves stand establishment. Seeding about 1 to 2 lbs. PLS per acre forage or 1 to 2 lbs. seed per 1,000-sq. ft. for turf. Weak seedling vigor, need to keep moist. Consider sod transplanting where early cover is needed.

Plant in early fall (August to September) for humid lowland elevations, early spring, especially when a legume is included in mixture. Commonly seeded alone or in mixtures with bentgrass (*Agrostis* spp.) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and other turf grasses for landscaping, lawns, greens or soil stabilizing.

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Good with other turf grasses, golf greens, and covers for amenity grasslands or lawns and landscaping around industrial sites. Palatable to most grazing animals, excellent grazing tolerance and good fall regrowth. Moisture and nitrogen needed for good production. Intolerant of prolonged flooding, high water tables, or poor drainage. Naturalized from near sea level to the alpine edge of the Rocky Mountains about 18" ppt. or irrigation for good performance. Moderate shade tolerance. Good cold and winter hardiness.

IMPROVED VARIETIES

Seventy-four strains or cultivars listed in 1994 Grass Varieties of the United States, USDA SCS Handbook 170. Consult with state or local plant materials specialists for varieties best adapted to specific sites and purposes.

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