

Alta Fescue

Technical Sheet

Tall fescue is a robust long-lived, comparatively deep-rooted, bunchgrass. The leaves of forage types are broad, while turf types have been selected for narrow leaves. We do not recommend it be used for lawn seeding.

Tall fescue will grow fairly well on soils low in fertility, but it is better adapted to fertile conditions.

Endophyte infected tall fescue inhibits many soil organisms, including pathogenic fungi, parasitic nematodes and beneficial mycorrhizal fungi.

The endophyte also produces ergot alkaloids that are toxic to mammals including domestic livestock.

It is now recognized that the presence of the endophyte contributes to both the tough nature of the grass and the poor performance of grazing animals in the warmer months.

When tall fescue is either mowed or grazed it forms a thick, impenetrable mat of culms near the soil surface. Many birds, including dove and quail are "weak scratchers" and tall fescue does not allow enough bare ground for these birds to obtain adequate food.

Tall fescue is best used in waterways and roadside ditches for erosion control.

SEEDING RATE

60 lb. / acre



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