

**GOOD TO
KNOW!**



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!
**THE MOST IMPORTANT
GRASSES**
—
GRASS SPECIES
AT A GLANCE
”



Perennial ryegrass



Creeping bentgrass



Hard fescue



Red fescue



Smooth-stalked meadow grass



Common bent



Tall fescue

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

LOLIUM PERENNE

Perennial ryegrass is one of the most important grass species for establishing lawns. It prefers moist, nutrient-rich soils and is characterised by quick germination and very fast early development, forming thick swards. It is very durable and grows back quickly after being worn down. Perennial ryegrass is an excellent candidate for heavily worn surfaces such as football pitches, playgrounds and sunbathing lawns. In addition to site characteristics, its growth is dependent on having a very good supply of fertiliser and water.

SMOOTH-STALKED MEADOW GRASS

POA PRATENSIS

Smooth-stalked meadow grass is the second representative of the hard-wearing lawn grasses. It is an important component of sports fields and playground lawns and prefers moist soils. Since smooth-stalked meadow grass forms underground runners, also called rhizomes, swards with a high percentage of the species exhibit high shear strength. In terms of germination and early growth, however, smooth-stalked meadow grass is slower than perennial ryegrass and thus only begins to represent a high proportion of the sward in the year after sowing.

CHEWING'S FESCUE

FESTUCA RUBRA COMMUTATA

Chewing's fescue forms low-lying, thick clumps with very fine leaves, which form thick and fine swards. It is undemanding in terms of its nutrient supply and can withstand lengthy dry periods without suffering damage. Chewing's fescue is mainly used in ornamental lawns, recreational lawns and golf courses, though it is also found in landscape lawns.

CREEPING RED FESCUE

FESTUCA RUBRA RUBRA

Creeping red fescue spreads using underground runners (rhizomes), making it effective at closing gaps in the sward. It thrives in high, cool sites and on lighter soils. Unlike Chewing's fescue, the leaves have a darker colour. It is used in the same mixtures as Chewing's fescue.

SLENDER CREEPING RED FESCUE

FESTUCA RUBRA TRICHOPHYLLA

Slender creeping red fescue is an intermediate form between Chewing's fescue and creeping red fescue. It also forms underground runners (rhizomes) that allow it to close gaps in the sward. The leaves of slender creeping red fescue are dark green and very fine. It is the most hard-wearing and persistent of the fescues and is also relatively tolerant of salt. Slender creeping red fescue is primarily used in ornamental lawns and golf courses.

HARD FESCUE

FESTUCA TRACHYPHYLLA

Hard fescue belongs to the group of undemanding tuft-forming grasses and has grey to blue-green, bristly leaves that form a relatively loose sward. A persistent species, it prefers light, dry and nutrient-poor soils. Hard fescue is somewhat tolerant of partial shade and moderate intensity of care, with infrequent cutting. It is the most important species for extensive greening sites like landscape lawns, roadside planting, embankments, etc.

COMMON BENT

AGROSTIS CAPILLARIS

Common bent forms thick to loose tufts with short above-ground and below-ground runners. It is a persistent species with fine leaves and is at home in nutrient-poor, acidic soils and pastures, but also in high-altitude sites and partially shaded areas. Common bent forms hard-wearing, homogeneous swards that can tolerate deep cutting very well as long as they receive sufficient water and nutrients. Golf courses and recreational lawns are the main areas where common bent is used.

CREEPING BENTGRASS

AGROSTIS STOLONIFERA

Creeping bentgrass spreads through short or long above-ground runners called stolons, which form roots at their nodes, forming sister plants. This allows it to close gaps very effectively; indeed, under ideal conditions, the species is quite aggressive. It forms thick, homogeneous swards, which can tolerate deep cutting very well. Creeping bentgrass is primarily used in golf courses and very fine ornamental lawns.

TALL FESCUE

FESTUCA ARUNDINACEA

Tall fescue forms strong, persistent clumps, some with underground shoots. It has a relatively broad leaf and is not considered to be an ornamental grass. Tall fescue is well-suited for use on very dry sites, though it can also adapt quite well to wet and shaded areas. Tall fescue is very robust, which makes it well-suited to hard-wearing areas (e.g. race-tracks). In such areas, however, it should not be cut too short.