



Tall Fescue

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Varietal Trials Results, January 2006



Tall fescue, a bunchgrass, may be planted in mixtures with other grasses and legumes. It establishes rapidly, withstands trampling, tolerates summer drought and produces fall-season pasture when other grasses become dormant. While subject to winter injury, tall fescue may remain productive in areas with reliable snow cover.

Animal performance is better when the variety grown is endophyte-free. Endophytes are fungi that in-

vade plant tissues, reducing forage palatability and animal performance.

The wheatgrasses are valuable, native forage species especially suitable for growing in the Western Great Plains area of the United States. Wheatgrasses can produce excellent forage yields and sustained productivity under hay and pasture management systems either in monoculture or yield and quality.

Dry matter yield, in tons per acre, of tall fescue, wheatgrass and festuca-lolium hybrids seeded at three locations.*

Variety	Grand Rapids		Rosemount		Morris
	1994-1996	1999-2001	1993-1995	1998-2000	1993-1996
Tall Fescue:					
Barcel	3.0	—	5.3	—	4.5
Cajun	—	4.9	—	5.3	—
Fawn	3.3	—	4.9	—	5.0
Ky 31	3.5	4.6	5.8	—	4.7
Ky 31-endophyte free**	3.3	—	5.6	5.9	4.9
Martin	3.6	4.9	5.3	4.8	4.7
Maximize	—	4.6	—	5.1	—
Mozark	3.5	4.8	5.4	5.5	4.8
Mustang	2.7	4.3	4.7	4.9	—
Seine	—	—	—	5.6	4.8
Stef	3.3	—	5.3	—	—
Festuca-Lolium Hybrids:					
Kemal	—	3.8	—	3.3	—
Tandem II	—	3.8	—	3.3	—
Spring Green(WFL-96)	—	—	—	—	—
Wheatgrasses:					
Manska	2.9	—	4.0	—	4.8
Newhy	2.7	—	3.9	4.2	—
Reliant	3.0	—	4.2	—	5.0
LSD 5%	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	NS

* Data in the table are the most recent available.

** Endophytes: Fungi that invade plant tissues, which reduces forage palatability and animal performance.

Tall Fescue Planting Rate and Date

Bushel Weight, Pounds	25
Seeds/Pound	229,000
Planting Rate, Pounds/Acre	
Alone	15
In Mixtures	5
Planting Rate, Seeds/Sq. Ft.	
Alone	50
In Mixtures	20
Planting Date	
Alone	Early Spring or Summer
With Legumes	Use Date for Legume