

# Kentucky Bluegrass



**K**entucky bluegrass is the most widely used lawn grass in Colorado Springs. Despite requiring regular watering and year round care, Kentucky bluegrass can be part of a water-wise landscape if used thoughtfully and judiciously. Here are several points to think about when considering Kentucky bluegrass.



## Benefits

- Excellent traffic tolerance. Kentucky bluegrass is the best option for lawns used regularly by kids or dogs.
- Traditional lawn appearance: deep green color, and thick, soft texture.
- Excellent ability to survive drought. It will go dormant (turn brown) during period of hot dry weather, then recover when cooler, wetter weather returns.



## Water requirements

- Kentucky bluegrass requires regular watering, usually around two to three times per week. Over the growing season, this equates to about 25 inches of supplemental irrigation water on average (April through October).
- Kentucky bluegrass must be watered regularly throughout the winter months (November to March) to prevent winterkill. It must be watered one to two times each month.
- In years with hot, dry summers, Kentucky bluegrass can require large amounts of water to keep green.
- In order to water it efficiently, keep Kentucky bluegrass areas to a reasonable size. Homeowners report satisfaction when they reduce Kentucky bluegrass to a total of 1,000 square feet or less. Consider planting other types of landscaping, like low water-use plants with drip irrigation, in peripheral areas of your yard.
- Water Kentucky bluegrass with a highly efficient irrigation system that includes matched precipitation



*Kentucky Bluegrass*

rotating nozzles, sprinkler bodies with check valves, and a rain sensor. We offer rebates on many of these irrigation products.



## Don't use if ...

- It doesn't have a purpose. Choose Kentucky bluegrass for high traffic, not as a default landscaping option.
- The area is too shady. Kentucky bluegrass requires at least 6 hours of full sun.
- The area will not be watered, mowed or fertilized regularly. There are better grasses for low maintenance areas.
- Don't cover too much of your landscape with Kentucky bluegrass. Keep the total size small to keep your water bill and maintenance reasonable.

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[youtube.com/springsutilities](https://youtube.com/springsutilities).



  
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## Considerations

- Grows best on flat areas that receive at least eight hours of sun per day. Does not grow well on slopes or shady sites.
- Not suited to areas that are challenging to water, like areas of a landscape that are narrower than 8 feet.
- If watered with an inefficient sprinkler system, brown spots will appear.
- Kentucky bluegrass will turn brown in periods of hot, dry weather. This may also occur when we are in mandatory outdoor watering restrictions.



## Installation

- Kentucky bluegrass can be installed from seed or sod.
- It's ok to seed or install sod in the Colorado Springs area is any time from April through September.
- The optimal time to encourage rapid rooting, fewer weeds and less frequent watering is Aug. 15 through Sept. 15.
- Seeding projects will have more weeds than installing sod. If you expect weeds will be a problem, sodding the area will require less work.
- Be sure to till and amend the soil before planting. Good soil preparation will result in healthier grass that you can water less often.



## Hybrid bluegrass

- Hybrid bluegrass is a cross between Kentucky bluegrass and Texas bluegrass. Although it has some very desirable characteristics, its water use is not significantly different from Kentucky bluegrass. It is more heat tolerant than Kentucky bluegrass and recuperates from traffic injury extremely well. Hybrid bluegrass can be treated like Kentucky bluegrass in Colorado Springs.
- Hybrid bluegrass is deep green color and a sod former, just like Kentucky bluegrass. Hybrid bluegrass is also called, "Thermal Blue" and "Reveille." For more information from Colorado State University, visit [ext.colostate.edu](http://ext.colostate.edu).

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