

ALTERNATIVE TURF: FINE FESCUES

Looking for a shade-tolerant, water-wise grass? Fine fescues may be the solution. They can be purchased as individual species or as grass mixes of several species.

BENEFITS

- **Best option under large shade trees.** Fine fescues don't grow well under evergreen trees.
- **Grows well at higher elevations,** especially rocky soils above 7,000 feet.
- **Doesn't require a lot of fertilizer,** only half of the normal rate for Kentucky bluegrass lawns.
- **Mixes well with wildflowers.** Plant wildflower seed at the same time as grass seed for the best results.

WATER SAVINGS

- Fine fescues save moderate amounts of water. They grow well when watered twice per week on average.
- Some species, like sheep fescue and hard fescue, are more drought-tolerant than others.
- Performs best with monthly winter watering on warm days from November to April.

INSTALLATION

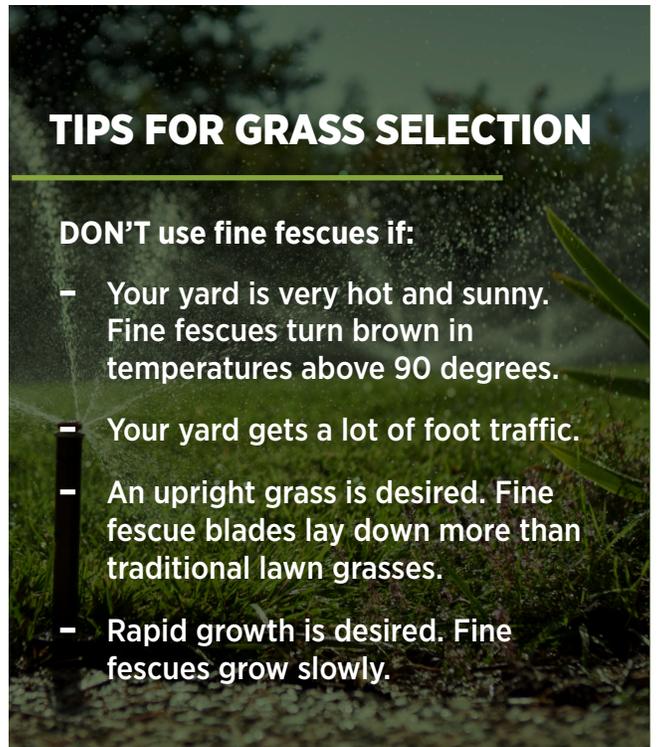
- Best time to seed: Aug. 15 through Sept. 30.
- Seed will germinate quickly, but can take a while to fill in.
- Requires regular watering and fertilizer for several weeks after planting.
- Can become clumpy or develop a large thatch layer over time.



TIPS FOR GRASS SELECTION

DON'T use fine fescues if:

- Your yard is very hot and sunny. Fine fescues turn brown in temperatures above 90 degrees.
- Your yard gets a lot of foot traffic.
- An upright grass is desired. Fine fescue blades lay down more than traditional lawn grasses.
- Rapid growth is desired. Fine fescues grow slowly.



Visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org) for water-wise information, irrigation rebates and instructional videos.



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