

AVANEX® Lagertha Tall Fescue



KEY POINTS

- Moderately fine, dense turf type tall fescue
- Dark green with excellent colour retention
- Excellent persistence without irrigation
- Contains AR601 Unique Endophyte Technology
- Reduced mowing frequency
- Mowing height between 50 - 150 mm

BREEDING

Lagertha, with AVANEX® Unique Endophyte Technology, was bred from advanced American material developed over many years by Rutgers University. In New Zealand a selection was undertaken for turf performance, disease resistance, and adaptation by turf breeder Louise Carpenter.

CHARACTERISTICS

Lagertha is a high quality, dark and fine turf tall fescue. Lagertha retains a green colour and an attractive appearance for longer in summer due to its strong deep root system. Lagertha has excellent persistence without irrigation in most drier regions on silt or clay soils when mowed a height range of 50 - 150 mm. Lagertha helps to deter birds and unwanted herbivore feeding through the action of the AR601 Unique Endophyte Technology.

This is especially useful in situations where birds and geese are a problem. Fewer insects are found in Aturf with AVANEX® Unique Endophyte Technology resulting in reduced bird feeding. Geese and other herbivorous animals are deterred from feeding on the foliage. This technology is a tool currently being used at several airports throughout New Zealand as part of their strategy to help minimise the risk of bird strike.

ADAPTATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

Lagertha tall fescue should be sown at 30 - 40 g/m² (300 - 400 kg/ha). Seed can be broadcast and raked or harrowed in to a well prepared seedbed, hydroseeded or direct drilled.

Although tall fescue is tolerant of a wide range of soil pH, it does require sufficient seedbed fertility. Nitrogen and phosphorous are important and usually have to be supplied. A soil test before planting is recommended.

Lagertha requires warm weather to establish, with daytime temperatures above 15 °C, provided there is enough moisture. It is best sown alone and not mixed with other grasses. A mowing height range of 50-150 mm or higher is recommended.

Tall fescue has a pronounced winter dormant period but in New Zealand no winter browning can be expected north of Hamilton.

Experts from earth to turf.

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