



Kentucky Bluegrass

Key features:

- Cold tolerant grass seed
- Performs well in high traffic, moderate shade and sunny areas
- Rhizomatous self-repairs from heat, drought and traffic damage
- Low moisture requirement once established

Kentucky Bluegrass is a cool season lawn grass which spreads via rhizomes to form a dense sod and grows best during cool, moist weather on well-drained, fertile soils with a pH between 6 and 7. Due to its extensive root system, Bluegrass is commonly used as a companion species with other cool season grasses, such as a taller Bluegrass cultivar with ryegrass, for racetracks, and a finer type with a tall fescue in home lawns. Bluegrass requires a well prepared seedbed, application of a starter fertilizer, and a consistent watering schedule while the seedlings develop. Due to the slower growth of Bluegrass (approximately 14 days germination) full establishment takes time (1-2 months is not unusual).

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However, once established it spreads quickly via its extensive rhizome production. Bluegrass grows by roots from single plants and at the same time sends out stems to form their own roots. This interweaves and supports the base making it denser as it grows.

Sowing rate and maintenance

10 – 20 g/m² (1 – 2 kg/100 m²) broadcast to achieve an even distribution of seed, into friable, well drained fertile soils the seed should be covered with 6 – 12 mm of soil and kept moist until it establishes.

Moist growing conditions and cool weather are ideal for Kentucky Bluegrass. The optimum temperature for Kentucky Bluegrass is in the range of 15°C to 28°C. At temperatures greater than 30°C and in freezing temperatures it will go into dormancy but will recover when the preferred temperature returns. Mowing height for Kentucky Bluegrass is 18 – 25 mm on lawns/sports fields and much higher for racecourse use. Kentucky Bluegrass should be fertilised 3 - 4 times per year in the growing season as identified by a soil test result. Adequate irrigation is important to the health and subsequent rich colour of Kentucky Bluegrass. Watering should be deep and less often to encourage the roots to deepen in search of moisture. This will produce more drought tolerant and disease resistant turf.

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