

Care and Management for Established Tall Fescue Lawns

Homeowners love their lawns! Tall fescue is a popular choice for Kansas lawns. It turns green early in the spring and maintains color late into the fall. As a cool season lawn grass it is the most drought tolerant grass for the homeowner. It grows well under a variety of conditions — sunny or semi-shady and wet or dry. When seeded at the correct rate and managed properly, tall fescue makes an attractive lawn that holds up during Kansas summers.

The following information is a calendar to properly for tall fescue lawns.

Mowing-

Turf-types: 2 to 3 inches. K-31: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches. Raise mower height to the upper end of the range during the summer.

Fertilizing-

September, November, May.

Watering-

In the Spring water minimally. During the Summer: 1 to 1 1/2 inches per week. Try to get as many days between watering as possible. In the Fall, only water as needed to prevent wilting.

Planting-

September or March through April, using 6 to 8 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet.

Dandelions-

Herbicides are most effective in the fall.

Crabgrass-

Use Pre-emergence herbicide before redbud trees reach full bloom.

Grubs-

Treat May through July depending on when grubs are present.

Aerating-

Early spring or fall, as needed.