



FORAGE FIRST®

Tower Tall Fescue

- Broadly adapted with improved tolerance to extreme conditions
- Improved disease resistance (rust & other leaf diseases)
- Late maturing variety suitable for intense grazing & hay environments
- Maturity helps maintain higher RFQ at harvest

 **Elite Variety** symbols represent varieties in the Forage First® portfolio which demonstrate the highest industry standards in quality

FORAGE FIRST® FACTOR: Various levels of endophyte toxicity are common in the majority of US tall fescue fields. Unless KY31 is requested, La Crosse Seed is focused on offering only varieties that are free of any endophytes. Improved tall fescue varieties demonstrate better cold tolerance across the Midwest while animal performance trials show enhanced grazing preference and palatability compared to older genetics. If renovating endophyte-infected fescue, it's best to rotate out for a period of 1 to 2 years until infected seed populations diminish and a new stand can establish without competition. If the goal is to improve existing pasture, adding legumes (like red clover) makes sense by helping production and quality. USDA research has shown that clover reduces some of the negative effects cattle see when consuming the infected plants.

SEEDING RATES (LBS/ACRE)

MONOCULTURE
MIX COMPONENT

25 - 30
5 - 15

SEED INFORMATION

SEEDS/LB **227,000**
DEPTH (IN) **1/4 - 1/2**
EMERGENCE (DAYS) **14 - 21**

CHARACTERISTICS

ESTABLISHMENT	MED	PALATABILITY	MED-HIGH
PERSISTENCE	HIGH	YIELD POTENTIAL	HIGH
DROUGHT TOLERANCE	HIGH	GRAZING TOLERANCE	HIGH
WINTER HARDINESS	MED-HIGH		

PLANTING TIMES

SPRING PLANTING	MAR - MAY	LIFE CYCLE	PERENNIAL
FALL PLANTING	AUG - SEP		

ADAPTATION

Tall fescue is adapted to cool and humid climates and most soils with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0. Tall fescue will grow fairly well on soils low in fertility, but it is better adapted to fertile conditions. Tall fescue will produce top growth when soils are as cold as 40°F, and it continues growth into late fall in the South.

ESTABLISHMENT

Tall fescue is easy to establish due to its rapid germination and good seedling vigor. It may be planted by any common method such as grass seeders, hydroseeding, and broadcasting. For forage or pastures, seeding rates are 15 to 20 lbs/acre if drilled and 20 to 25 lbs/acre if broadcast. Turf seeding rates are 7 to 8 lbs/1000 sq ft for new lawns, and 4 to 5 lbs/1000 sq ft for established lawns.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING

BEGIN (IN)	4 - 8	AVERAGE DAYS REST	25 - 35
STOP (IN)	3 - 6		

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Cut boot to early head for first cut, then every 4 to 6 weeks thereafter.

While tall fescue is tolerant of abuse and low fertility, it does respond to fertilizer inputs. Follow the soil test recommendations for turf and forage uses. Endophyte-infected tall fescue will tolerate grazing abuse better than most cool season grasses. If the tall fescue is an endophyte-free variety, it should not be grazed closer than 3 inches and will not tolerate overgrazing. Tall fescue can be grown with white clover, red clover and alfalfa. First cutting for hay should be at the late boot stage with further cuttings as regrowth allows. Tall fescue is one of the best grasses for stockpiling in the fall. When used for turf, mowing height should be 2 to 3 inches. Mow frequently enough so no more than 1/3 of the total leaf surface area is removed. Fertility requirements are low-medium. Disease control measures may be needed depending on conditions during the growing season.