



# Heartland Fescue Sod

Our flagship turfgrass, Heartland Turf-Type Tall Fescue Sod is our top seller and the number one choice for St. Louis area lawns. Tall fescue naturally has a deep root system and hearty blades, making it the most adaptable cool-season grass under our local climate extremes. Heartland Turf-Type Tall Fescue is a blend of three or four elite seed varieties, chosen for year-long green color, medium-to-fine texture, and resistance to summer diseases. It is well suited for residential and commercial lawns, parks, high-traffic athletic fields, and golf course roughs and green surrounds.

Heartland Fescue Sod contains 10% Kentucky bluegrass, which helps fill in bare spots to maintain a dense turf. We seed the fescue and bluegrass separately to ensure consistent coverage, and grow it under irrigation to bring the mixture to maturity. The result is a beautiful, uniform sod devoid of the clumpiness and inconsistency often found in lower quality fescue/bluegrass blends.



## Highlights:

- Good drought tolerance, due to its deep root system. When compared to bluegrass, it can withstand longer time between waterings.
- Grows well in sun or partial shade
- Excellent dark green color. It is the first grass to green up in the spring, and holds its color well into late fall.
- Good wear tolerance. Fescue plants are hardy under foot traffic. 10% Kentucky bluegrass adds self-repair capability.

## Recommended Uses:

- **Residential/Commercial Lawns** - As stated above, it is our top seller for local lawns. We especially recommend it for lawns without underground sprinklers, or for lawns that receive high traffic from children or pets.
- **Athletic Fields** - Used widely for football fields, lower-to mid level baseball outfields, youth soccer, or any recreational sports fields. Because of its growth pattern, fescue is generally not recommended for upper-level soccer facilities, field hockey, and in some cases, baseball infields. However, under proper maintenance, we have seen Heartland Fescue perform well on high-school infields.
- **Parks/Institutions** - The most adaptable cool-season grass for a sprawling landscape or campus. It adapts to your sunny and shady areas, and will hold up moderately well to foot traffic.
- **Golf Courses** - In our area, turf-type tall fescue is rapidly replacing bluegrass as the grass of choice for roughs and green surrounds. Heartland Fescue tolerates a variety of mowing heights and is generally more disease resistant than bluegrass.

## Types of Cut:

- **Pallet:** Easy to handle 20" x 40" slabs, perfect for do-it-yourself installation. 98 slabs per pallet = 540 square feet
- **Big Roll:** A continuous roll that can be installed with a tractor or skid-loader, with less labor. Good for large installation projects with limited obstacles.
- **Big roll** is 42" wide, split down the middle for two 21" strips. Standard size roll covers 360 square feet, but can be cut to shorter lengths upon request.



## **Heartland Turf-Type Tall Fescue – Maintenance**

### **WATERING AND CARE OF NEW SOD**

- It is essential to begin watering new turf within a half hour after it is laid on the soil. Apply at least 1 inch of water so that the soil beneath the turf is very wet. Ideally, the soil 3 to 4 inches below the surface will be moist. In dry or windy conditions, move your sprinklers often so that no area goes too long without water. Once you get through the first day, you can catch up on deeper watering in the evening and early morning.
- For the next two weeks, keep the below-turf soil surface moist with daily (or more frequent) waterings of approximately 1/4 inch each. Especially hot, dry, or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts and frequency. Push a screwdriver into the ground to check for moist soil at least 3-4 inches deep.
- Once your new sod is rooted into the soil (where you cannot pull it up), gradually shift to watering practices for established lawns.
- Avoid using your new turf until it is fully rooted and the ground has firmed back up.

### **WATERING - ESTABLISHED LAWNS**

- Once established, turfgrass should be watered only when it needs it. A general guideline is 1 inch of water per week, by either rain or irrigation. Mature lawns should receive deep, infrequent waterings, approximately every 5 to 7 days, to promote a healthy, extensive root system. Watering too frequently will result in shallow roots and weaker turf.
- Ideally, water in the early morning to minimize evaporation. Avoid evening watering in hot, humid weather, as this can contribute to disease.
- Water requirements may vary from lawn to lawn due to soil conditions, terrain, etc. In order to practice responsible water use, you should learn to recognize signs of dry turfgrass. Grass in need of water will have a grey-blue cast, rather than its normal green color. The grass blades may also shrivel and have a “pine-needle” appearance. Turfgrass in this condition should be watered immediately. See our watering guide for more in-depth instructions.

### **WEED, INSECT, AND DISEASE CONTROL**

- Use crabgrass pre-emergent control as specified in the fertilization table.
- Broadleaf weeds (clover, dandelion, ivy, thistle, etc.) may be controlled with granular or sprayable products. Consult a local garden center for available products.
- Grassy weeds can also be spot-sprayed, but usually require different products than broadleaf weeds. When spot-spraying, be careful to apply at proper rates, as to not damage the turf. Herbicides should be avoided when temperatures exceed 90° F.
- To control white grubs and other insects, apply insecticide with the active ingredient “imidacloprid” between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>. Timing is important for effective control. Be sure to water in.
- Our turfgrass varieties are naturally resistant to many fungal diseases. Under proper watering and fertilization, you should experience little disease pressure. If diseases do occur, first check your watering practices to be sure that you are avoiding evening waterings. If you wish to treat for disease, there are some fungicides available for the residential market. Again, consult a local garden center for products.

### **MOWING**

- Grass should be mowed on a regular basis during its growing season. Optimum mowing height for a residential lawn is between 1 ½ and 3 ½ inches. Keep mower blades sharp for a clean cut. As a general rule, never cut off more than 1/3 of a grass blade at a time. Should your grass get “too tall”, take it down gradually over the next few mowings. If you are mowing frequently enough, there is no need to bag clippings, as they are beneficial if left to decompose naturally.

### **AERATING AND OVERSEEDING**

- Lawns should be core aerated at least once a year to improve air and water exchange and promote healthy roots. Aerate in the spring or fall, when the grass is actively growing.
- Overseeding is not necessary unless bare spots are present. Grass will recover from some thinning with proper fertilization.
- If overseeding, be sure to use a high quality fescue seed (Heartland Fescue recommended) to match your sod.

### **FERTILIZING**

Fertilizer should be applied 3 to 4 times per year, using the following schedule as a general guide. Use a rotary-type spreader for best results. Apply in two different directions to avoid streaking. Fertilizer should be watered in immediately.

September 1 - September 15	Apply a balanced fertilizer (such as 12-12-12) at the recommended rate.
November 1 - November 15	The most important application of the year for root development. Apply high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 32-3-8) at 1 ½ times the recommended rate. Use partial slow-release nitrogen if possible.
April 1 - April 15	Apply a combination fertilizer + crabgrass control product. Do not exceed recommended rate.
May 15 - June 1	Fertilize if needed for color. Use a balanced, slow release fertilizer. This is a good time of year to use a non-burning, organic product such as Milorganite.