



NORTHSTAR SEED LTD.

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Tall Fescue Seed Production

Tall fescue is perennial bunch type grass, that has a high tolerance to saline soils. It can handle flooding or periods of standing water and will produce on poorly drained soils where other crops will not. There are 2 types of tall fescue, turf-type bred for the turf industry and forage-type bred for the hay and livestock sector. The early harvest of tall fescue seed helps utilize time and equipment better. Tall Fescue is crop insurable in Manitoba



Contracts: Are usually for 3 seed crop years

Field Selection Tall Fescue does well on a wide range of soil types, provided there is adequate moisture and good fertility. It can tolerate flooding and extended periods of standing water. The field should be free from residual herbicides because these will hamper establishment. Quackgrass and wild oats are also a concern.

Seeding: At a rate of 2.5-3 lbs/ac and at a depth of about half inch.. Seeding with an air seeder in rows 12" to 14" apart into a firm seed bed works really well. Can be sown under a cover crop but if so should be seeded early, without cover crop can be seeded through the end of July. Tall Fescue should not be broadcasted,

Crop Protection While grassy weed herbicides are limited there are a number of broad-leaf chemicals available, our production advisors give our growers the support they need

Harvest: Needs to be swathed which usually takes place late July with combining 5-7 days later.

Yields: Have ranged from 400-1200 lbs/ac with an average yield being ~500 lbs/ac for forage type and ~800 lb/ac for turf type

Post Harvest: Tall Fescue seed should be put in an aeration bin to get moisture level below 12% which is safe for storage. The straw should be removed from the field as soon as possible and it does have some nutritional value. Regrowth should be mowed or grazed and fertilizer applied in late fall for the following years crop.

Contact Us

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