

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner _____

Establishing Tall Fescue in Bermudagrass

WHERE TO GET HELP

If additional assistance is needed, contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

Test your soil and apply lime as needed, preferably before seedbed preparation.

FIRST YEAR SPRINGGED BERMUDAGRASS: Plant fescue with disc-type drill. A light disking may be needed if the bermudagrass turf is heavy.

OLD BERMUDAGRASS STANDS: Remove excess topgrowth by haying or grazing. Prepare firm seedbed. Disk, drag, or cultipack seedbed as needed for workmanlike seedbed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Planting Time: September 1 to October 31; February 1 to March 30. Most desirable time is early October.

Planting: Using 10 to 20 pounds per acre, drill seed ¼ inch deep.

Fertilizer: Local experience and soil test should be used as a guide in determining amounts of fertilizer to apply.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

FIRST YEAR MANAGEMENT:

1. Exclude livestock on newly seeded areas until June 10 to allow fescue plants to develop a root system to withstand possible summer drought.
2. Competitive plants such as ryegrass should not be planted with fescue.
3. Should excess growth of competitive plants be a problem, graze lightly or mow above fescue plants.
4. If February is selected as month of seeding, additional fertilizer will be needed in late April or early May for good results.
5. If the entire field is not planted, the areas should be separated by fencing in order to afford needed management.

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