

# FINE FESCUE

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## DESCRIPTIONS

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- Chewing Fescue** Chewing fescues have a bunch type growth habit, forms denser turf than the strong creeping red fescue, tends to be more disease resistant and persistent under lower maintenance. Of the fine fescues, chewing fescue is the most tolerant of close, continuous mowing and traffic pressure. From Northern Europe and bred for improved turf quality in hotter, dryer climates of North America.
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- Strong Creeping Red Fescue** Strong creeping red fescues have rhizomes and a distinct spreading growth habit. They have greater, longer and less prolific rhizomes than the slender creeping red fescues. Strong creepers also tend to be more tolerant of patch and crown disease and are often mixed with Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass in hot and humid regions.
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- Slender Creeping Red Fescue** Slender creeping red fescues are very tolerant of saline soil conditions, respond well to low mowing heights and can be used in winter overseeding programs where rapid spring transition is desired. Slender red fescue is often used as component in roadside turf mixtures where salting of roadsides is required.
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- Hard Fescue** Hard fescues are similar in appearance to sheep and blue fescue, but have wider, tougher, less glaucous (bluish-green) leaves and are more tolerant of higher fertility and moist soil conditions. Hard fescues are more similar to chewing fescue with similar turf density and texture, but have lower nutrient requirements and slower vertical growth rates. Hard fescues are also used as a component in low maintenance turf mixtures where a “windswept” or “links” look is desired. Hard fescue is also used for wildflower mixtures.
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- Sheep & Blue Fescue** Sheep and blue fescues exhibit a stiff bunch type, non-creeping growth habit, bluish green to dark green leaves, require little maintenance and do poorly under intensive cultural practices. Sheep and blue fescue are often used in wildflower mixes because of their non-aggressive ornamental appearance. Sheep fescue is used for wildflower mixtures and blue fescue is used extensively for ornamental landscape plantings. Both species produce very good turf under shade conditions.
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