

**Buyer beware on the latest miracle grass seed for lawns****April 30, 2014**

“As seen on TV”, “No more watering”, “No more mowing”, “Roots 4X deeper”, “Ultra low maintenance”, and “Great for Sun and Shade” are just some of the promises that you’ll see on the advertising for the latest miracle grass seed. Grassology™, Cutting Edge™, and Canada Green™ are a few of the more notable brands that we are getting questions about currently. These mixes invariably include a wide variety of common turfgrass species like creeping red fescue, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, hard fescue, sheeps fescue, and/or chewings fescue. Of these, only tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are adapted to NE lawns. Often the individual variety of each species is not stated and thus the buyer has little idea of the quality of the individual cultivars. Many of these seed lots have seed coatings to help minimize watering needs in the first two to three weeks after planting, but seeding rates have to be increased to account for the coatings. Lastly, the cost of these seed lots is questionable. Grassology™, for instance, can be purchased locally for \$21 (including tax) for three pounds which covers 500 sq ft on a new seeding, so \$42.00/1000 sq ft. However, a more appropriate seeding rate for any of the species in this mix would be twice what is recommended by the distributor, so actual costs are approaching \$80/1000 sq ft for a new seeding. High quality Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, or buffalograss can be seeded for \$10-\$30/1000 sq ft when purchased locally at a distributor of quality turf seed.

**More information is in:****Choosing grasses and buying seed for lawns in Nebraska and the Northern Great Plains at****<http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/Grassesforlawns2012k.pdf>****Zac Reicher, Professor of Turfgrass Science, [zreicher2@unl.edu](mailto:zreicher2@unl.edu)**