

Preparing to Seed this Fall

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With the seeding season closing in on us for cool season grasses, we are being inundated by calls and emails on preferred grass types. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the best cool-season grasses for Nebraska lawns, whereas buffalograss is the best warm-season grass for Nebraska lawns. Here's a quick summary of the different grasses and how they perform in Nebraska:

- Buffalograss: Extremely low maintenance after established, but dormant from October through May. Buffalograss is well-adapted throughout most of the state. This grass should be seeded in spring because it is a warm season grass.
- Kentucky bluegrass: Dark green, excellent winter tolerance and spreads aggressively by rhizomes. Best grass to use for lawns in the western ¼ to ½ of the state, because we think it has better winter tolerance than tall fescue. Can also be used in eastern NE.
- Turf-type tall Fescue (also known as tall fescue or rhizomatous tall fescue [RTF]): Deep-rooted and limited problems with white grubs. Actually uses more water than Kentucky bluegrass, but a deeper root system allows it stay greener and longer than Kentucky bluegrass during infrequent rainfall.
- Tall fescue generally has been thought to have poor winter tolerance, but fared well this last winter so we're reevaluating its fit throughout the state. It is the best lawn grass in the eastern third of Nebraska and particularly in the southeastern corner of NE stretching well past Kansas City.
- Fine fescue (creeping red, red, slender, sheep, etc.), perennial ryegrass: Avoid these species for a lawn, but they do have fits in no-mow roughs, sports fields, and other niches.

All of these grasses and more can be seen at the new [Backyard Farmer Turf Garden on East Campus in Lincoln](#). Watch these Backyard Farmer videos on how to maximize lawn seeding success. These videos are specific to spring seeding but also work during fall seeding except that use of preemergence herbicides generally aren't required.

- [Lawn Renovation 1](#) – Seeding methods
- [Lawn Renovation 2](#) – Post seeding care
- [Lawn Renovation 3](#) – Potential problems and solutions

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