

Best grass type for home lawns?**August 8, 2014**

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 or Kentucky bluegrass are the best cool-season grasses for Nebraska lawns, whereas buffalograss is the best warm-season grass for Nebraska lawns. More information is available in a March 2013 Turf iNfo at http://turf.unl.edu/pdfctarticles/march_grassesforlawns.pdf , and in summary:

- **Buffalograss:** Extremely low maintenance after established, but dormant from October through May. Buffalograss is well-adapted throughout most of the state.
- **Kentucky bluegrass:** Dark green, excellent winter tolerance and spreads aggressively by rhizomes. Best grass to use for lawns in the western 2/3rd to 1/2 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 rhizomatus 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 eastern 1/3 of Nebraska and particularly in the southeastern corner of NE stretching well past Kansas City.
- **Fine fescue (creeping red, red, slender, sheeps, etc), perennial ryegrass:** Avoid these species for a lawn, but they do have fits in no-mow roughs, sports fields, and other niches.

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