

AZURE

BLUE SHEEP FESCUE

Extremely fine bladed bunchgrass that produce a dense sward and distinct teal blue colored turf.

Azure is recommended for use in roughs and out-of-play areas because it requires little care and performs exceptionally where fertilizer use is discouraged.

Besides being low-maintenance, Azure has exceptional survival under conditions of severe water limitations. Perfect for those areas where mowing is not desired.

- Very low growing
- Excellent drought & cold tolerance
- Fine textured, bunch type grass
- Requires little care and performs exceptionally where fertilizer use is discouraged
- Brilliant teal blue color that actually intensifies under heat and drought stress
- Rapid establishment
- One of the slowest growing grasses commercially available

SEEDING RATE:
(new) 4-5 lbs./1000 sq. ft.
(established) 3-4 lbs./1000 sq. ft.



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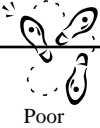






2541 Commerce St
La Crosse WI 54603



DESCRIPTION

Azure sheeps fescue is an extremely fine bladed bunchgrass that produces a dense sward and distinct deep teal blue colored turf. Azure establishes rapidly from seed, yet is one of the slowest growing grasses commercially available. Azure exhibits drought and arid climate heat tolerance and has a unique dehydration avoidance mechanism allowing it to remain green under drought stress and induced dormancy. Its deep blue teal color intensifies under heat and drought stress.

Turf Maintenance Characteristics

Growth Habit	Estab. Rate days	LHC Tol. 1/2"	Mowing Freq.	Traffic Tol.	Thatch Prod.	Comp. Mix	N. Reg.	Shade Tol.	Cold Tol.	Drought Tol.	ET rate mm/day	Endo-phyte	Salinity Tol. mmhos
Bunch 	Slow 21-28 	Good	2x Month 	Poor 	Low	Excellent	Low 	Good 	Very Good 	Very Good 	Med 7-8 	No	<3 Poor 

*LHC=low height of cut, ET=evapotranspiration, N=nitrogen *per 1,000 sq. ft; rates may increase or decrease based on location, soil type, irrigation practices, desired turf quality, humidity & other abiotic and biotic factors.*

APPLICATION

Azure was bred specifically for improved shade tolerance, tolerance to infertile soils and reduced maintenance conditions. Azure is best adapted in northern regions of the temperate cool-season turfgrass adaptation zone where heat and humidity related diseases are minimized. It can be successfully utilized in full sun or shade, in parks, playgrounds, commercial sites, golf course roughs and wild flower and native seed mixtures. In poly species mixtures Azure is compatible in turfgrass mixtures containing Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, colonial bentgrass, other fine fescues and wildflower and native grasses, legumes and forbs.

SEEDING

Date: Spring and fall when soil temperatures are 60°F or higher. Fine fescue is generally slow to tiller once germinated so higher soil temperatures and increasing photoperiod in spring or warm soils with decreasing photoperiod in the fall provide an optimal environment for seedling establishment.

Rates: 4-5 lbs/1000 sq. ft. on new seedings. Seed count of Azure is 680,000 seeds per pound dependent on the year of harvest, location of production and seed production practices.

Depth: Sow at 1/4 to 1/2 inch.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Soil Preparation: Prepare a firm seed bed free of clods, sticks, and vegetative debris. Seed should be in contact with soil. Hard fescues are best established in well drained soils, but will tolerate heavy soil conditions better than many other cool season grasses.

pH: Should be slightly acidic, 6.5 or less, for favorable growth.

NPK requirement: Of the cool-season grasses used for turf, fine fescues are more tolerant of infertile, dry soils and often predominate where there is competition from trees and shrubs for nutrients and moisture. For this reason, fine fescue is an excellent choice for low maintenance turf. Fine fescue may not perform well during hot, humid summers, particularly if they are over fertilized, grown in poorly drained soils or mowed too closely.

Water Use: Sheeps fescue is recognized as a dehydration resistant and tolerant species (Beard, 1986) with improved drought tolerance. An ET rate of 7-8mm per day is the best among the cool-season turfgrass species.

Thatch Management: The dense bunch type growth habit of Azure Sheeps Fescue provides opportunities for development of thatch. Verticutting, lower mowing heights and dethatching are recommended for dormant sod or grass breaking dormancy in the spring. At any give dethatching, never remove more than 1/2 inch of thatch. If the thatch layer is greater than 1 inch, removal must be done over a period of years.

Mowing height: Standard mowing height for Azure is 1.0—2.5". Mowing heights are often dictated by species mixture components. Mixtures containing tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass would be mowed at the higher range of cutting heights. Mixtures containing perennial ryegrass and colonial bentgrass may be mowed at lower mowing heights.

Weed Control: (From NCSU Pest Control Recommendations for Turfgrass Managers 2003).

For general broadleaf control in established turf: 2,4-D+dicamba, 2, 4-D +MCPP, 2, 4-D+MCPP+dicamba, 2, 4-D+2, 4-DP and others.

Pre-emergent herbicides to control annual grassy weeds in established turf: *benefin* (Bakan), *bensulide* (Pre-Far), *dithiopyr+trifluralin*, *pendimethalin*, (pre-M), *prodiamine* (Barricade).

Post-emergence herbicides for annual grassy weeds *dithiopyr* and *fenoxaprop*. *Sethoxydim* (Poast) and *fluazifop* (Fusilade) are used as broad-spectrum herbicides to control broadleaf and annual grassy weeds in fine fescue seed production fields of Oregon.

*All reference to pesticides, herbicides and fungicides whether a generic or named product is for general informational purposes only. Text reference is not intended as an endorsement nor does omission imply criticism. Always read and follow labeled instructions.



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