

SFA

Seeds for Africa

Blue Fescue Grass

Blue fescue seeds cannot stand frost and will eventually die, so start them indoors in autumn to get a head start and transplant them outdoors in spring, or directly plant them outside after the danger of the last frost.

Make sure the site you want to plant the blue fescue gets adequate sunlight and has well-drained soil. Blue fescue will eventually die if water stays around it instead of being absorbed by the soil. Remove any rocks or debris, loosen the soil with a shovel to aerate it and break large clods into smaller manageable pieces.

If planting in pots, purchase several peat pots from the nursery. Make sure they have a few drainage holes in the bottom, or drill them if they do not.

Fill each pot with good quality soil less potting mix because it is light and drains well. Avoid using soil from the garden since it compacts in a pot and impedes proper drainage. Fill the containers just a few inches below the rim.

Sow 5 to 6 seeds into each container, pushing them gently to ensure good seed to mix contact. Do not push them too deep in the soil as it could adversely affect germination.

If planting directly in the ground, push the seeds gently into the soil, spacing them an inch or two apart. Water the seeds after planting to make the soil evenly moist.

Water the delicate seeds gently until they germinate to prevent them from washing away. Apply a layer of mulch such as cedar wood chips or cow manure over the soil to help retain moisture, prevent competing weeds from growing there and prevent rain from washing the seeds away. Once the seedlings grow 2 inches high, transplant them into individual 4-inch clay pots or in the soil.

Use a sharp pair of scissors to trim the plants when they are young by gathering the strands of grass and clipping ½-inch off the tips. Not only will this encourage a bushy growth as each plant grows, but also give it a uniform look. However, clip the tops of mature plants several times during the growing season.

Fertilize the blue fescue with a slow release fertilizer at half its recommended strength once during the growing season to provide it essential nutrients.

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