



STOVER SEED®

Teaming confidence with nature since 1922



Technical Data and Information Product Sheet

BONSAI Dwarf Turf-Type Tall Fescue, *Platinum Quality™*

DESCRIPTION

Tall Fescue is a perennial, cool season bunch grass. It is native to Europe but has become naturalized in the United States since its introduction in the 1800s. It was, and still is, used as a pasture grass until varieties were developed in the 1980s that were more suitable for use as a turfgrass, hence the name "Turf-Type Tall Fescue." **Bonsai Tall Fescue** was introduced in 1989 as the first tall fescue grass variety with a dwarf growing habit resulting in a lawn that needed less mowing due to its slower rate of growth. Since then over 6 million pounds of Bonsai and successive varieties have been used for western lawns with great success.

This new, improved, 4th generation **Bonsai** maintains the same slower growth and drought characteristics that made the original **Bonsai** popular but with improved drought tolerance, finer leaf texture, and better turf quality. **Bonsai** is the ideal choice for western lawns because it combines all of the desirable characteristics in a lawn; drought tolerance, dwarf growth habit, wear tolerance, shade tolerance and disease resistance. *This 4th generation Bonsai variety is a Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance (TWCA) qualified product. TWCA qualified grasses demonstrate statistically significant water savings over conventional varieties. [For more information on TWCA and how grasses are tested visit www.tgwca.org](http://www.tgwca.org)*

Bonsai has OPTI-ROOT seed enhancement containing phosphorus-containing fertilizer with fulvic and humic acid complexes that are formulated to deliver the nutrients directly to the plant. In addition, Opti-Root contains a proprietary combination of L-amino acids to promote lateral root growth

CHARACTERISTICS

Features

Better heat and drought tolerance
Rapid tillering, Dense growth habit
Excellent seedling vigor
Brown patch resistance
Improved texture

Pros

Less water use
Dwarf Growth habit

Benefits

Improved summer performance
Excellent wear tolerance
Fast establishment
Less susceptible to warm weather disease
Reduced shredding during mowing

Cons

Can get clumpy under heavy use
Slower recovery to injury

US-

BONSAI has demonstrated an extended adaptation range and superior quality in a variety of exacting growing conditions, making it a leading choice for:

- * Residential Lawns * Playgrounds * Parks * Institutional Grounds * Sod Production

SEEDING RATES

New turf: 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 400 pounds per acre.
Overseeding existing turf: 6 to 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 250-400 pounds per acre.
Seed when soil temperatures are above 60° at a depth of 1/4 inch.
Best times for seeding are early spring and early fall.



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ESTABLISHMENT

Emergence: 7-10 days under optimum temperature range between 68-86 degrees, longer under cooler temperatures.
 First mowing approximately 21 days after emergence (may be longer under cooler temperatures).
 First limited use approximately 28 days after emergence.

SPECIFICATIONS

BONSAI 2X Dwarf Turf-Type Tall Fescue

Platinum Quality (Exceeds Certified Quality Standards)

98% Minimum Purity

0.0% Crop and Weed Seed

90% Minimum Germination

250,000 seeds per pound

BONSAI 2X is a product of Turf Merchants, Inc and is protected under the US Plant Variety Protection Act.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Water Requirements

Frequent, light watering is necessary for seed to germinate and become established. After establishment, water infrequently but deeply to encourage root development. Tall Fescue is a cool season (C3) grass with a deep root system that enables the plant to draw water from a larger soil profile. Once the grass becomes established it has the ability to withstand summer drought conditions under reduced irrigation schedules. General irrigation guidelines dictate that turf should be watered in early morning hours and that about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of water should be applied but not to the point of runoff.

Climate Conditions

Tall Fescue is widely distributed throughout the United States except in arid regions and the Gulf States and Hawaii. Water usage is lowest in cool humid regions with highest use in arid regions. Once it becomes established it can withstand periods of heat and drought.

Soil Conditions

Tall Fescue prefers well drained soil (clay or sandy) with a pH of 5.5 to 8.5.

Fertilization

Use of a starter fertilizer when seeding is highly recommended. After establishment, fertilize during periods of active growth in Spring and Fall with a balanced fertilizer. Avoid using products with a high nitrogen (N) content as it increases water use. Apply no more than 4 pounds of N per 1,000 square feet per year.

Mowing

Ideal mowing height is between 2 and 3 inches. Lower heights of 1.5 inches may be tolerated under ideal growing conditions. Higher mowing heights of 3 to 4 inches are recommended in summer to reduce heat and drought stress. Never mow more than 1/3 off of the height at one time. Mow during the cooler periods of the day. A mower with sharp blades reduces stress and improves the appearance.

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