



TURFGRASS CLIMATE ZONES



1. Northern Humid Zones. This area includes the Northeast section of the United States along with the Pacific Northwest coastal regions and Alaska. The major grasses for this zone are:

Cool Season Grasses:

- ♦ Kentucky Bluegrasses
- ♦ Rough Bluegrass
- Fine Fescues (Creeping Red, Chewings, Hard, Sheep)
- ◆ Tall Fescue
- Perennial and Annual Ryegrasses
- **2. Northern Arid Zone.** Comprises much of the upper Western United States encompassing the North Great Plains and Intermountain Regions and has the widest temperature variations in the country. Major grasses for this zone include:

Cool Season Grasses:

- Kentucky Bluegrasses
- Rough Bluegrass
- Fine Fescues (Creeping Red, Chewings, Hard, Sheep)
- ◆ Tall Fescue
- Perennial and Annual Ryegrasses

For areas with little rainfall or irrigation these *warm season grasses* should be considered:

- ♦ Buffalograss
- ◆ Blue Grama



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3. Transition Zone. Encompasses a wide swath across the center of the country. It is aptly named as both cool and warm season grasses can be grown with no particular grass being favored. Summer temperatures can be too hot for cool season grasses while winter temperatures can be too cold for warm season grasses. Of the cool season grasses Tall Fescue is most adapted while bermudagrass is the most popular warm season grass. Seed mixtures with cool and warm season grasses (i.e. Tall Fescue and bermudagrass) can be a good option. Grasses that can be grown include:

Cool Season Grasses:

- ◆ Tall Fescue
- Perennial and Annual Ryegrass
- Fine Fescues (Creeping Red, Chewings, Hard, Sheep)
- Kentucky Bluegrass

Warm Season Grasses:

- ♦ Bermudagrass
- Seashore paspalum
- ♦ Zoysiagrass
- Dichondra (ground cover, lawn substitute)
- **4. Southern Humid Zone.** Comprises the southern central and southeast areas of the country except for the coast. Warm season grasses are best adapted with Tall Fescue being the best choice for a cool season grass.

Warm Season Grasses:

- ♦ Bermudagrass
- Seashore paspalum
- Zoysiagrass

Cool Season Grasses:

- ◆ Tall Fescue
- Perennial and Annual Ryegrass (for winter overseeding)
- **5. Coastal Warm/Humid Zones.** Includes the southeast coastal portions of the continental United States and Hawaii. Warm season grasses are dominant with ryegrasses being used as an overseed in winter months. Grasses that can be grown include:

Warm Season Grasses:

- ♦ Bermudagrass
- ♦ Zoysiagrass
- ♦ Seashore paspalum
- Centipedegrass
- ◆ St. Augustine (available in sod or plugs only)

Cool Season Grasses:

Perennial and Annual Ryegrass (for winter overseeding)