

Waterwise Lawn Mix

- Coastal or Interior
 - Fine textured
 - New turf or overseeding existing turf
- For:*
- Professional turf
 - Landscaping
 - Home Lawns

The Waterwise Lawn is a blend of four fine fescues producing a fine-textured, lush lawn that is also low maintenance. It is suited to grow in both sun and shade. Once established, it will require less watering and less mowing than a traditional lawn. A wise choice for saving water.

Waterwise Lawn should be seeded at 5-7 pounds per 1,000 square feet, depending on seeding conditions and desired growth density.

A Waterwise Lawn can thrive under low input conditions due to the characteristics of the fine fescues. **Less Watering:** The leaves of fine fescue plants are very thin and do not readily lose moisture to the air and so do not dry out as quickly as other species. Fine fescues also create extensive root systems, which source water and nutrients from the soil better than other turf grasses. As a result, less water (and less nutrients) will be needed once a Waterwise Lawn is established. **Less Mowing:** The fine fescues used in a Waterwise Lawn have been bred by turf grass scientists to be low-growing. That, coupled with less water and nutrient inputs, results in slower growth/shorter grass and so less mowing is required.

Recommendations for growing a Waterwise Lawn

The key to a successful Waterwise Lawn is strong establishment. Just as with other plants, seedlings are vulnerable and need special care.

Waterwise Lawns are best seeded in the cool, moist conditions of spring or fall. Consistent daytime temperatures should be around 20 degrees Celsius. Although a Waterwise Lawn will grow on most types of soil, it is not recommended for poorly-drained areas with standing water. Once seeded, a Waterwise Lawn should be treated the same as any new lawn. (See Richardson Seed's "Turf Seed Selection Guide" for seeding instructions.) The new lawn should be kept moist, fertilized and limed as needed. Waterwise Lawns (just as with all lawns), take about a year to become fully established, at which time, less water and fertilizer will be required. Once established, a deep watering only twice a month in summer is recommended to keep the lawn in good health. The lawn will indicate the need for water or fertilizer by a dullness in its normally dark green color.

If left unmown, Waterwise grass blades will grow to about 8 inches and will lay over (seed-heads may also appear), resulting in a "swirling" appearance; it's softer, less uniform and has a meadow-like appearance. If a more manicured look is desired, mow to a height of about 3 inches. When mowing, grass clippings should be mulched and left to return nutrients to the soil. In areas with winter snow cover, a Waterwise Lawn will go dormant and brown, but will green-up again in spring. In areas of little or no snow, it should stay green through the winter.

Overseeding can be done with Waterwise Lawn seed. The seed must make firm contact with the soil in order to establish and the above recommendations should be followed. If existing lawns are overseeded with Waterwise Lawn seed once or twice a season for several seasons, eventually the Waterwise Lawn will out-compete the existing lawn and become established. A Waterwise Lawn tolerates moderate traffic. As with any grass, if used in an area of high traffic, overseeding may be needed.

Quick reference for lawn establishment

• Properly prepare seed bed (see Selection Guide) • Evenly seed at a rate of 5-7 lbs / 1000sq.ft. • Once seeded, use a rake and roller lightly over the area to ensure the seed makes good contact with the soil • Keep seed moist through germination • Water well through the first season •