



Features

Waterwise Lawn seed is a mixture of four fine fescues for a fine-textured, lush lawn that needs a lot less maintenance than an average lawn. It will grow in both sun and shade and once established, requires less watering and less mowing than a traditional lawn. A wise choice for saving water.

Suggested Seeding Rate: 5-7 lb / 1000 sq.ft.

Bag Size: 2 kg (4.4 lb)

Coverage: up to 900 sq.ft.

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.

This seed mix will thrive in most areas of BC, including Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley and the Interior.

Waterwise Lawns are best seeded in the cool, moist conditions of spring or fall. For Coastal British Columbia, this would likely be the last couple weeks of May or the first couple weeks of September, depending on local conditions. 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.

If seeding onto very sandy soil, the addition of an organic amendment or topsoil is recommended. (Six to eight inches of soil is needed to establish a lawn.) As with most soils, topsoil is often full of weed seeds.

If using new topsoil, or if planting on recently cleared or cultivated land, seeding should be delayed and the soil should be kept moist to allow any weed seeds that may be present to grow. The weeds can then be removed before seeding the lawn.

Once seeded, a **Waterwise** Lawn should be treated the same as any new lawn. It should be kept moist, fertilized and limed as needed. All lawns, **Waterwise** included, 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 needed, use Kelp Organics All Natural Lawn Food 9-2-4 at seeding, then through the growing season, for a healthy, eco-smart lawn.

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 and less uniform than a traditional lawn. 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 winter, under a lot of snow, a **Waterwise** Lawn will go dormant and brown. With 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 instructions above 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 above).
- Evenly seed at a rate of 5-7 lbs / 1000sq.ft.
- Once seeded, use a 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.

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