

TURFGRASS OPTIONS

GRASS	PLANT CHARACTERISTICS	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
Kentucky bluegrass Poa pratensis	C, I, S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Familiar lawn grass that spreads by rhizomes - Good cold and wear tolerance, recuperative powers - Requires approximately 1 1/2" - Many good varieties for CO
Perennial ryegrass Lolium perenne	C, I, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Often included in mixes with bluegrass - Quick germination - Good shade and disease tolerance - Maintenance needs similar to bluegrass
Buffalograss Buchloe dactyloides	W, N, S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spreads by stolons - Turns tan at 1st frost, greens up 3 weeks after bluegrass - Rapid germination with treated seed - Male and female plants - Mowing optional as normal height is 6" or less - Adapted to 15-25" moisture/yr - Poor shade tolerance, excellent heat and drought tolerance
Blue grama Bouteloua gracilis	W, N, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally found with buffalograss - Excellent heat and drought tolerance, poor shade tolerance - Adapted to 12-25" moisture/yr - Normal foliage height is 8-12

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

C	=	cool season grass		N	=	native species
W	=	warm season grass		B	=	bunch grass
I	=	introduced species		S	=	sod forming grass



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GRASS	PLANT CHARACTERISTICS	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
Smooth brome Bromus inermis	C, I, S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pasture grass now being used in turf settings - Pasture grass now being used in turf settings - Leaver 1/4 - 1/2" wide - Seasonal water requirement estimated at 18"
Tall fescue	C, I, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved varieties have leaf width close to bluegrass (1/4") - Older varieties leaves between 1/4 - 1/2" wide - Seasonal water requirement estimated at 20" - Older varieties mixed with smooth brome, improved varieties planted in a pure stand
Wheatgrasses Crested/ Fairway Agropyron desertorum Agropyron cristatum	C, I, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tolerates a 3-4" mowing height - Fairway produces a better turf appearance - Leaves about 1/4 " wide - Adapted to 12-20" moisture/yr - Excellent drought tolerance, goes dormant under heat and drought stress, good cold tolerance
Western Agropyron smithii	C, N, S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bluish foliage, can be an aggressive spreader - Good drought and cold tolerance - Adapted to 14-25" moisture/yr

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

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W	=	warm season grass		B	=	bunch grass
I	=	introduced species		S	=	sod forming grass

Reprinted from a leaflet by Dorothy Borland
 "The Turf Expert", and information from the Plant List from the Mile
 High and Dry EXERISCAPE Symposium.
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