

Sheeps Fescue

Festuca ovina



Sheep's fescue is a perennial bunchgrass, somewhat hardier than any of the other fine-leaved fescues. It does not produce much usable forage, similar to hard fescue. However, it does provide excellent ground cover. Sheep's fescue is somewhat slow to establish; however, once established it is very persistent, winter-hardy, and drought-tolerant.

Sheep's fescue grass is a short (dwarf type), semi-erect bunchgrass that forms dense tufts with numerous, stiff, rather sharp, bluish-green leaves. Its overall stature is very similar to hard fescue, but somewhat shorter. It is low growing, fine leaved, and dark green.

Its principal value is as pasture for sheep on poor land where more valuable grasses cannot be successfully grown. It will not withstand trampling, due to the growth being bunchy and the fairly shallow roots and should always be mixed with other grasses or clover. If sown with White Clover, for instance, a firm sod is obtained and the clover improves the quality of the pasture.

It grows naturally in any dry locality - in dry pastures and sandy fields, on rocks, etc., from the seashore to the Alpine region of the mountains. In Europe it is found eight thousand feet above sea level

Seeding Rate: New Turf: 60-200 Lbs/ Ac

Overseeding: 2 ½ Lbs per 1000 sq.ft. or Broadcast 80 – 100 Lbs/ Ac

Height Range (inches): 8 - 24

Taxonomy

Species: F. ovina

Genus: Festuca

Family: Poaceae

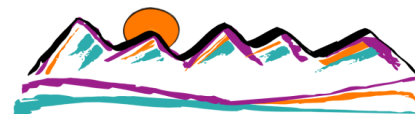
Order: Poales

Unranked: Commelinids

Unranked: Monocots

Unranked: Angiosperms

Kingdom: Plantae



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