

ALTERNATIVE TURF FOR SHADED AREAS IN FRISCO LAKES HOA – FESCUE/NATIVE TEXAS BLUEGRASS

The City of Frisco has approved planting Fescue/Native Texas Bluegrass in the heavily shaded areas of Frisco Lakes HOA. It is important that homeowner's follow all the informational guidelines to adhere to the requirements of the City of Frisco.

BENEFITS FOR HOMEOWNERS:

- **Fescue/Native Texas Bluegrass (F/NTB)** grows in heavily shaded areas on the parkway and under trees in the yard where Bermudagrass has died due to heavy shade that created bare areas.
- **F/NTB** can survive with the same watering as Bermudagrass once it is established.
- Recommended varieties must be planted for success in establishment.
- **F/NTB** grasses have to be seeded so installation cost will be affordable to homeowners. Sod is not available.
- **F/NTB** grasses are traditional bunch grasses with dark green color and attractive texture.
- **F/NTB** grasses do not invade shrub and flower beds by spreading over and under edging.
- **F/NTB** can tolerate temperatures up to 100 degrees F.
- Raising canopies and thin pruning trees will benefit shaded turf areas.

APPROVED F/NTB SEED VARIETIES AND RATES:

SEEDING RATES: 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet of planting area.

MIXTURE: (select 1 of 3 mixes below)

- Rebel Fescue seed can be purchased from Lowe's. Native Texas Bluegrass seed can be purchased online from Outside Pride. Order the SPF 30 Hybrid Bluegrass Seed. Mix 9 pounds of Rebel Fescue with 1 pound of the Outside Pride Bluegrass Seed. Because of seed count, the 9:1 mix will provide a 50/50 blend.
- Jonathan Green Black Beauty Solar Green can be ordered online from Jonathan Green. It is a mix with both varieties.
- Outside Pride Combat Extreme Southern Zone Blend can be ordered online. It is a mix with both varieties.



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OPTIMUM SEEDING TIME:

The optimum seeding time is September 15 – October 15. Or the next best time is March 15 – April 15.

INSTALLATION:

- Rake area to level.
- Aerate areas to be seeded in two directions. Mark irrigation heads before aerating.
- Seed area with mixture of **F/TNB** as given above. Apply at the rate of 8 to 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet for best results.
- Cover seed with a thin layer of well rotted compost.
- Water for germination running irrigation 3 minutes at 10 am, 2 pm, 4 pm. Keep seeded area moist until seed germinates. This will take about 10 to 14 days.
- After 14 days, reseed any bare areas.
- Once seed is 2 inches in height, reduce water to 3 times per week for 2 weeks; then water 2 times per week for 2 weeks; finally, water 1 time per week through the winter.
- After establishment, water as you would water your Bermudagrass.
- The **F/TNB** will go dormant in August but keep watering and it will start to green up in September.
- If grass thins during summer months, reseed with 4 to 5 pounds of seed in the fall and water for germination.

FERTILIZATION

- **DO NOT** fertilize **F/NTB** from May 15 to October 15. This will kill the grass.
- Fertilize in November, January and March with a 3:1:2 or 4:1:2 ratio fertilizer such as 15-5-10 or 20-5-10.
- Follow application rates when applying fertilizer.

MOWING

- Mow grass once per week to a height of 3 ½ to 4 inches during the growing season for best appearance.
- The grass might go dormant and stop growing in July and August due to hot temperatures. Adjust mowing as needed.

WEED CONTROL

- **DO NOT** use a pre-emergent or post-emergent weed control on this grass blend.



Photo and TM of Approved Mixed Seed Bags:



Combat Extreme™ Southern Zone