

## ***FESCUE LAWNS IN THE FALL***

You are probably aware of the difference between last years heat and drought vs this years rain and cooler temperatures and the effect it has had on our yards, especially fescue lawns. Fescue lawns are doing quite well as opposed to last year. So, have the steps for Fall Fescue Lawn maintenance changed? The short answer is . . . no. The steps and suggestions are generally the same to ensure continued good growth through out the fall and winter. More good news is that the fungus that is usually created by heat that damages fescue lawns has been less of a problem so far and should continue to be less of a problem in our area this fall.

We are approaching the very best time of the year in Northeast Oklahoma for seeding a new Fescue yard or for over seeding existing fescue yards. The dates recommended by the OSU Extension Service for seeding in either case are from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. Soil samples should be taken if you are having any problems with an existing Fescue lawn or if you are starting a new Fescue yard. Also, take a soil sample if you have not taken one in the last 3-4 years. It is recommended that you use a mechanical-drop seeder rather than hand-sowing seeds to ensure a more uniform pattern. Preparation of the lawn for reseeding should be done prior to putting out the seeds. This means getting rid of weeds and loosening the soil by hand or machine. You will need to measure the area in order to determine the proper amount of seeds and fertilizer needed. Don't forget that you will need irrigation facilities to maintain a nice fescue yard system.

OSU and the Extension Service approve and recommend you select a mix that contains at least three or more fescue seed types, rather than just one type of seed. And, if you can find this seed mix plus Kentucky Bluegrass, even better, but it may be difficult to find. It is suggested that you do not try to mix them yourself – buy it pre-mixed. The amount of seed to be applied in over-seeding should be listed on the seed bag. These products can be found in most nurseries and other garden outlets. Avoid applying more seeds than is recommended as over-crowding will occur. More is not always better! Remember to water adequately after the lawn is seeded or over-seeded so that the seeds do not dry out before they have time to germinate.

See OSU Fact Sheet [HLA-6419](#) (Seeding/Reseeding Fescue Lawns) or the [Fescue Maintenance Calendar](#).

For more detailed information go to: <http://www.tulsamastergardeners.org>