

Top-performing tall fescue varieties for Kansas have been identified based on K-State field trials that took place from 2012-2014 near Wichita. Trials were conducted in cooperation with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP), which coordinates uniform performance tests of turfgrass selections across the United States and Canada. The following list contains varieties identified by NTEP as commercially available in 2015.

K-State turfgrass researchers work closely with the program to determine varieties best adapted for Kansas. Following standard protocols, varieties entered in the trials are evaluated on color, density, uniformity, texture, and resistance to disease or environmental stress. Turfgrass quality is rated on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being poor and 9 being ideal. Selections were based on mean quality ratings recorded from April through October 2012–2014. Varieties listed received top rankings, but any tall fescue variety

with a rating of 6 or above is acceptable, and many of those tested should perform well in Kansas. For the complete list of tall fescue varieties and performance data go to ntep.org.

Varieties listed can be found in tall fescue blends but may not be represented on the front of the bag. Check the seed ingredient label to determine varieties present in a particular blend. Seed blend product names typically do not change, but varieties may be different from year to year. Using more than one tall fescue variety is recommended to ensure that turfgrass performs well under all conditions within a seeded area. You are unlikely to find products containing only these varieties, but the more top performers listed, the greater the chance of establishing high-quality turf.

For tips on managing tall fescue in Kansas, see *Tall Fescue Lawns* (MF736).

Top-Performing Tall Fescue Varieties for Kansas 2012–2014*

4th Millennium	Diablo	Firecracker SLS	Hover	Reflection	Swagger
Avenger II	Dynamite LS	Firewall	Kingdom	Reflection	Technique
BIZEM	Faith	Foxhound	Leonardo	Rhambler 2 SRP	Temple
Black Tail	Falcon V	Frontline	Maestro	Rockwell	Terrano
Bullseye	Fayette	Grande 3	Meridian	Rowdy	Thor
Caesar	Fesnova	GTO	Michelangelo	Saltillo	Titanium 2LS
Catalyst	Firebird 2	Hemi	Raptor III	Screamer LS	Traverse 2 SRP
		Hot Rod			

*Tall fescue varieties listed were not statistically different from the top performer.



Research plot of a tall fescue variety trial at the John C. Pair Horticultural Center near Wichita, Kansas.

Jared Hoyle, Turfgrass Specialist

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