

SEED RESEARCH REPORTS

Blue Fescue

SR 3200 blue fescue is a unique new grass that can be used in a large number of turf settings. SR 3200 is a very low maintenance grass, with a fine texture similar to hard or Chewings fescue. Environmentally sensitive sites or the lawns of busy homeowners can both benefit by using SR 3200.

MULTIPLE USES

Blue fescues (*Festuca glauca*) have traditionally been viewed only as ornamental grasses, with a few spaced plants in a landscape bed. Blue fescues look beautiful in this setting or mixed with wildflowers, but with the availability of seed they can be used in many other areas where low maintenance turf is desired. SR 3200 is well adapted to a mown turf situation, with the blue/green color developing in high stress periods. It can be used for home lawns, golf course roughs, roadsides, cemeteries and commercial sites. The distinctive color allows it to add landscaping detail and interest to mown turf areas.

VERY LOW MAINTENANCE

The germplasm that was used in the development of SR 3200 came from the lowest input turf sites. Blue fescues are found in cemeteries, parks and roadsides that are unirrigated, with no fertilizer and mown infrequently, if at all. The waxy leaf covering reduces transpiration so the plant can survive extended droughts and contributes to the blue/green color it develops during these stress periods. The foliage does not exceed 12 inches in height, so mowing is only needed to remove seedheads. It has good winter color and looks greener during this period. Blue fescues are very shade tolerant, often found in the dry shade of trees. The need for little or no fertilizer make them ideal for environmentally sensitive, very low maintenance sites.

ENDOPHYTE ENHANCED

SR 3200 blue fescue contains high levels of viable endophyte. This contributes to its stress tolerance and makes it resistant to a broad range of surface feeding insects. The endophyte also contributes to the dollar spot resistance observed in this variety.

OUTSTANDING TURF QUALITY

- Blue green color
- Very low maintenance
- Drought resistant
- Low growing
- Shade tolerant
- Endophyte enhanced

PVP

IMPROVEMENT THRU RESEARCH