

Azay is an improved variety of sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*) developed in Europe for very low maintenance turf use. Azay originated from a group of sheep fescue plants selected in turf areas receiving infrequent mowing and now supplemental irrigation.

BREEDING:

Azay turf can be extremely attractive, exhibiting a low growth habit, a very fine leaf texture, and a moderately dark-blue green color. Azay has a slow rate of vertical growth and maintains its color well during periods of drought and cold weather.

Thriving in acidic, droughty areas, Azay is very low growing when not fertilized and forms a dense, tough turf requiring little mowing or maintenance. Azay is a bunch grass and does not spread by means of stolons or rhizomes.

USAGE:

Azay was developed for use as a very low maintenance turfgrass. It is an excellent choice for use as a ground cover and for erosion control in droughty, acidic soils of low fertility. It has an excellent shade tolerance. It is a durable, long lived perennial grass. However, it is not a strongly competitive grass and will be crowded out by other grasses when managed too intensively. It is a good choice for mixing with wildflowers as it will not crowd them out.

MAINTENANCE:

Once established, Azay should receive minimum management. It is best to apply very little (if any) fertilizer or supplemental irrigation. Mowing should be kept to a minimum, possibly only once per year in the late spring to remove seed heads. In hot areas, and along south slopes some summer thinning, requiring periodic overseeding, may occur. Azay thrives on acidic soils, so no liming is necessary.

A minimum mowing height of 1 – 1-1/2 inches is suggested for turf subject to regular mowing. A lower cutting height may result in thinning of turf. Azay is tolerant to the commonly used herbicides, so normal turf weed control practices can be used. For attractive, low maintenance turfgrass that really holds its ground, choose Azay sheep fescue.



SEEDING:

Azay has good seedling vigor for a fine fescue and will germinate and establish quickly under favorable conditions. Azay has about 550,000 seeds per pound, and has a suggested seeding rate of 4 – 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. when planted alone. Azay can be mixed with hard, chewings, and creeping red fescue as well as low maintenance bluegrasses such as Kenblue and South Dakota common.

TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Introduction	1984
Main Uses	Golf roughs, shady lawns, low maintenance turf
Seed Count	550,000 seeds / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	8 – 11 days (fall)
Normal Days to First Mowing	42 – 48
Turf Quality Ratings	Fair – lower maintenance
Genetic Color	Medium green
Summer Stress Tolerance	Fair
Leaf Texture	Fine
Dense	Dense
Shade Tolerance	Excellent
Sod Strength	Not tested
pH Range	4.5 – 7.6
Winterhardiness	Excellent
Close Mowing Tolerance	Fair – prefers infrequent mowing
Growth Rate	Slow
Mature Plant Height	Medium low
Leaf Spot Resistance	Very good
Summer Patch Resistance	Fair
Brown Patch Resistance	Fair
Dollar Spot Resistance	Very good
Gray Leaf Spot Resistance	Very good