

Azay Blue is an improved variety of blue sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*) developed by Pickseed for very low maintenance turf use. Azay Blue originated from group of blue fescue plants selected in turf areas receiving infrequent mowing and no supplemental irrigation.

DESCRIPTION:

Azay Blue turf can be extremely attractive, exhibiting a low growth habit, a very fine leaf texture, and a moderately dark blue color. It is a durable, long lived perennial grass with excellent shade tolerance and a slow rate of vertical growth, and maintains its color well during periods of drought and cold weather. Thriving in acidic, drought-prone areas, Azay Blue is very low growing when not fertilized and forms a dense, tough turf, requiring little mowing or maintenance. Azay blue is a bunch grass and does not spread by means of stolons or rhizomes.

USAGE:

Azay Blue 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 drought, acidic soils of low fertility. Azay Blue can be mixed with hard, chewings and creeping red fescue as well as low maintenance bluegrass such as Kenblue and South Dakota commons, and is a good choice for mixing with wildflowers as it will not crowd them out. However, it is not a strongly competitive grass and will be crowded out by other grasses when managed too intensively. A minimum mowing height of 1-1/2 inches is suggested for turf subject to regular mowing. A lower cutting height may result in thinning of turf. Azay Blue is tolerant to the commonly used turf herbicides, so normal turf weed control practices can be used.



SEEDING:

Azay Blue has good seedling vigor for a fine fescue and will germinate and establish quickly under favorable conditions. Azay Blue has about 550,000 seeds per lb. The suggested seeding rate when planted alone is about 4 – 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Once established, Azay Blue 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 may occur, requiring periodic overseeding. Azay Blue thrives on acidic soil, so no liming is necessary.

TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Introduction	2004
Main Uses	Low maintenance ground cover / erosion control
Seed Count	550,000 seeds per lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	8 – 10
Normal Days to First Mowing	45
NTEP Quality Ratings	N/A
Genetic Color	Blue green
Summer Stress Tolerance	Excellent
Leaf Texture	Very fine
Turf Density	Very dense
Shade Tolerance	Excellent
Sod Strength	Fair
Wear Tolerance	Fair
Close Mowing Tolerance	Fair
Growth Rate	Very slow
Mature Plant Height	14 inches
Leaf Spot Resistance	Good
Summer Patch Resistance	Good
Dollar Spot Resistance	Fair – good
Powdery Mildew Resistance	Excellent
Acid Soil Tolerance	Excellent