

Blade Runner (tested as SM-4) is a new variety of turf type tall fescue developed by the breeders at the Pickseed research station. It is a synthetic variety that originated from tillers taken from elite selections of turf type tall fescue that demonstrated superior spreading potential compared to other tall fescue varieties.

DESCRIPTION:

Blade Runner is a tough, persistent, endophyte-enhanced variety that is well adapted to hot summers, lower fertility soils, shade and tough use situations. It has a pleasing medium dark color, medium leaf texture, and will spread by producing rhizomes and large numbers of basal tillers under favorable conditions. Blade Runner is very persistent and has excellent heat tolerance and drought resistance. It is a semi-dwarf type variety with a medium growth rate.

DISEASE AND INSECT RESISTANCE:

NTEP trials have demonstrated the broad overall disease resistance of Blade Runner. It has excellent resistance to brown patch, and also has good resistance to leaf spot and net blotch. Like all tall fescues, Blade Runner can develop pythium when the conditions are favorable for the disease, but it generally develops pythium later than other varieties, and recovers quickly.

USAGE:

Blade Runner is recommended wherever a persistent, high quality tall fescue with spreading ability is recommended. It is well adapted to low fertility situations and tolerates acid soils and shady conditions very well. It is recommended for lawns, parks, golf course roughs, and for sod production. Blade Runner can be blended with other improved varieties of turf type tall fescue and also mixes well with broader leaved varieties of Kentucky bluegrass such as Bronco.

SEEDING:

Recommended seeding times are early to mid spring (good) or late summer to early fall (best). A seeding rate of 6 – 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. is recommended for new plantings. For overseeding existing turf, a rate of 3 – 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. is best. Normally, seedlings will emerge in 8 – 12 days after planting, and the first mowing can be expected in 5 – 7 weeks.



MAINTENANCE:

Blade Runner is a lower fertility grass, and performs well with Nitrogen applications ranging from 2 – 5 lbs. actual N per 1000 sq. ft. per year. Yearly P and K applications at half the amount are also desirable. Fall fertilization is recommended. A mowing height between 1-1/4 and 3-1/2" is ideal, but lower and higher cutting heights can be tolerated as well.

TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Introduction	2004
Main Uses	Sod, lawns, parks
Seed Count	230,000 seeds / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	6 – 8 days (fall)
Normal Days to First Mowing	30 days (fall)
NTEP Quality Ratings (2002 data)	Very Good – 5.8
Genetic Color	Medium Dark Green – 6.5
Summer Stress Tolerance	Excellent
Leaf Texture	Medium Fine – 5.6
Turf Density	Medium
Shade Tolerance	Very Good
Wear Tolerance	Excellent
pH Range	4.9 – 8.1
Mature Plant Height	Semi-dwarf
Close Mowing Tolerance	Good – 1-1/4" minimum
Growth Rate	Medium – 5.6
Powdery Mildew Resistance	Excellent
Leaf Spot Resistance	Good
Summer Patch Resistance	Excellent
Brown Patch Resistance	Excellent
Dollar Spot Resistance	Very Good