

Mustang 4 is a new variety of turf type tall fescue developed by the breeders at Pickseed, in cooperation with Rutgers University. It is a synthetic variety that originated from tillers taken from elite selections of turf type tall fescue tracing from Mustang 3 that demonstrated superior summer performance, disease resistance and turf quality compared to other tall fescue varieties.

DESCRIPTION:

Mustang 4 is a tough, persistent, endophyte enhanced variety that is well adapted to hot summers, lower fertility soils, higher salt conditions, shade and tough use situations. It incorporates all the improved features expected in this latest generation variety. It has a pleasing dark green color, medium leaf texture and has superior summer performance and stress tolerance. Mustang 4 is very persistent, can be mowed down to ¾ inches and has excellent drought resistance. It is a "semi-dwarf" type variety with a medium growth rate.

ADAPTATION:

Mustang 4 is recommended wherever a persistent elite quality tall fescue is recommended. It is well adapted to low fertility situations and tolerates acid soils and shady conditions very well. Mustang 4 will germinate and grow under high salt conditions, even with water salt levels approaching 10,000 ppm total salts. It is recommended for lawns, parks golf course roughs, and for sod production. Mustang 4 can be blended with other improved varieties of turf type tall fescue and also mixes well with broader leafed varieties of Kentucky bluegrass such as Bronco and Bandera.

DISEASE RESISTANCE:

The 2006 seeded NTEP trials are demonstrating the broad overall disease resistance of Mustang 4. It has excellent resistance to Brown Patch. It also has very good resistance to Leaf Spot and Net Blotch. Like all tall fescues, Mustang 4 can develop some Pythium when the conditions are favorable for the disease. But, it generally develops the disease later than other varieties and recovers very quickly.

MUSTANG 4

TALL FESCUE

ESTABLISHMENT:

Recommended seeding times are early to mid spring (good) or late summer to early fall (best). A seeding rate of 6 – 10 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. is recommended for new plantings. For overseeding existing turf a rate of 3 – 5 lbs. / 1000 sq. ft. is best. Normally, seedlings will emerge in 8 – 12 days after planting and the first mowing can be expected in 4 – 5 weeks. Mustang 4 is a lower fertility grass and performs well with N applications ranging from 2 – 5 lbs. actual N / 1000 sq. ft. per year. Yearly P and K applications at half the N amount are also desirable. Fall fertilization is recommended. A mowing height between 1.25 – 3.5 inches is ideal but lower and higher cutting heights can also be tolerated well.

TECHNICAL PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Year of Introduction	2008
Main Uses	Sod production, golf courses, lawns, sports turf
Seed Count	230,000 seeds / lb.
Normal Days to Germinate	5 – 8 days (Fall)
Normal Days to First Mowing	26 days (Fall)
NTEP Quality Ratings (Preliminary, Complete Data Available in May 2008)	Excellent
Genetic Color	Dark green
Summer Stress Tolerance	Very good
Leaf Texture	Medium
Turf Density	Medium dense
Shade Tolerance	Very good
Wear Tolerance	Not tested
pH Range	4.8 – 8.1
Mature Plant Height	Medium
Close Mowing Tolerance	Good
Growth Rate	Medium
Red Thread Resistance	Very good
Leaf Spot Resistance	Very good
Summer Patch Resistance	Not tested
Brown Patch Resistance	Very good