

“Low Gro” Lawn Mix

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Lo Grow is a specially designed blend of six slow-growing fine fescue grasses. These are cool season grasses and are recommended for planting in northern climates of the United States and Canada (above approximately 37 degrees North Latitude). “Low Gro” is also adapted to the coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, the cooler mountain climates in the east-central states, and in the western mountains from the mid-elevation aspen woodlands to just below timberline.

The balanced blend of fine fescue grasses in the “No Mow” Lawn Mix takes combines each variety’s individual characteristics to create a turf that will:

- Grow to form a dense sod
- Thrive in full sun to partial shade
- Require little if any fertilization
- Need minimal watering (only during extended dry periods)
- Resist most turf grasses diseases
- Biologically reduce weed growth
- Reduce lawn maintenance dramatically
- Serve as an ecological alternative to traditional high maintenance lawns

“No Mow” thrives in full sun to partial shade on any reasonably well-drained soil, and is particularly well suited to growing on dry, sandy or rocky soils with low Nitrogen levels. Nitrogen fertilizer stimulates leafy growth, which only increases the need for mowing. The application of excessive nitrogen fertilizer can actually damage fine fescue grasses, so minimal or no fertilization is recommended.

Some of the fine fescue grasses in the No Mow Lawn Mix have been documented to possess allelopathic properties, in which the grasses produce compounds that prevent or retard the growth other plants and weeds. This “natural herbicide” makes No Mow particularly resistant to invasion by other herbaceous plants that often plague other types of turf.

“No Mow” is one of the most shade tolerant turf blends available, and thrives in light to moderate shade. It does particularly well under individual trees that receive indirect light from the sides, and is an excellent choice for around surface-rooted trees that leave little available soil for turf, such as maples. It also thrives in woodlands composed of oak, hickory, elm, ash, birch, white pine, and other “open canopy” tree species that allow filtered light to reach the ground level. “No Mow” will even grow under spruce trees that receive light around their edges, provided that the surface layer of needles and duff are removed to expose the mineral soil prior to seeding. When planted under deciduous trees the leaves must be raked off or thoroughly chopped up with a mulching mower after autumn leaf fall to prevent smothering of the turf grasses over winter.

“No Mow” will not grow well under black walnut trees, or in the dense shade of sugar maple and conifer forests. “No Mow” is not recommended for damp soils, or heavy clay soils with less than four inches of rich loamy topsoil.

Recommended “No Mow” Seeding Rates

For Lawns:

5 pounds per 1000 square feet

220 pounds per acre

For Low Maintenance Fields, Orchards, etc:

2½ pounds per 1000 square feet

110 pounds per acre

Areas that are intended to be low maintenance fields rather than lawns can be seeded at one half the normal lawn seeding rate. The “No Mow” turf will take longer to develop at this lower seeding rate, but will typically fill in to form a sod within one full year.

Rainfall Requirements

“No Mow” does best in climates that receive annual precipitation of 25 inches or more, with at least half arriving during the growing season. In drier climates with less than 25 inches of rain, supplemental irrigation can be supplied during dry periods in summer. “No Mow” is more drought tolerant than Kentucky Bluegrass, making it an excellent alternative for cool, arid climates.

Soil pH Range (Acidity – Alkalinity)

The fine fescues in the No Mow Lawn Mix grow well in soils within a pH range of between 5.0 and 8.0. The optimum pH range for these grasses is between 5.5 and 6.5, but will thrive in a wide range of soil acidity and alkalinity.

Fertilization

Fertilization is generally not needed to support growth of a healthy “No Mow” turf, except in extreme cases where soil nutrition is notably lacking. Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) may be in short supply in certain soils, and can be added using slow release fertilizers that contain little or no Nitrogen. On extremely poor soils, such as sand dunes and gravel pits, the addition of a balanced, slow-release fertilizer that contain equal parts Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) is recommended to assist during establishment. If further follow-up fertilizer applications are necessary, they should be done in early spring just as new grass growth is beginning, or in early September as fall growth is initiated. Nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied in summer, as cool season grasses typically enter a dormant period and do not take up nutrients efficiently. Application of excessive nitrogen at any time of year can actually damage fine fescue turf, and is strongly discouraged.

Mowing

“No Mow” lawns may require occasional mowing during the first two years of establishment to control weeds, especially with lawns that are seeded in spring. Most annual weeds can be controlled by mowing at a height of four inches in the first growing season. If biennial weeds such as sweet clover, Queen Anne’s Lace, burdock, etc. are a problem in the second year, they should be mowed at four inches just as they begin to flower, usually around mid June. This carefully timed mowing will kill most biennials. A few may survive the mowing, and should be mowed at four inches a second time when they re-bloom later in the season.

Once the “No Mow” lawn is established, there are four basic mowing options:

- No mowing at all
- One late spring mowing, usually in early June when the seedheads appear
- Fall mowing with a mulching mower, especially in wooded areas to chop up fallen leaves
- Regular mowing, usually monthly, to maintain a more “cropped” appearance