STOVER SEED®

Teaming confidence with nature since 1922

Technical Data and Information Product Sheet

CELESTIAL Strong Creeping Red Fescue

DESCRIPTION

Strong Creeping Red Fescue is a perennial cool season grass native to Europe that is widely distributed throughout the cool-humid regions of North America. It is called "Creeping" due to the fact that it spreads slowly by underground runners or rhizomes. It is superior to other cool season grasses (Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Ryegrass, Tall Fescue) for shade tolerance which makes it an ideal component in turfgrass mixtures with Kentucky Bluegrass and Perennial Ryegrass for sun and shade conditions.

It can be mowed or left unmowed to produce a very appealing ground cover or meadow. When left unmowed it exhibits better heat tolerance and will grow to a full mature height of 12-15 inches. It does not do well under warm humid conditions but will persist in arid climates with irrigation. Creeping Red Fescue does not do well under high traffic conditions.

Celestial Strong Creeping Red Fescue is an improved cultivar that exhibits improved drought and disease tolerance with excellent winter color and blends well with other grasses. **Celestial** was highly rated in turfgrass NTEP trials and is a certified "TWCA" product meaning that it has been bred and tested to show improved drought tolerance.

CHARACTERISTICS

Features	Benefits
Improved drought tolerance	Less water use
Long, slender leaf blades	Attractive slope or ground cover
Moderate heat and cold tolerance	Wide range of adaptability
Exceptional shade tolerance	Adaptability to sun/shade
Improved disease resistance	Less susceptible to warm weather disease
Germinates quickly	Fast establishment

USES

Celestial is a natural for use as a mowed turf or left unmowed for a natural, wispy ground cover with attractive seed heads.

* Lawn Seed Mixtures	*Ground Cover	* Slopes	*Medians
* Golf Course Roughs	* Erosion Control	*Roadsides	*Winter overseeding of Bermudagrass

SEEDING RATES

3-5 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 200-300 pounds per acre.
Rates are determined by the use, density of stand desired, and whether the application is new or overseed.
Best times for seeding are early Spring and early Fall.

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ESTABLISHMENT

Emergence: 7-14 days under optimum temperature range between 59-77 degrees, longer under cooler temperatures. Under normal conditions establishment can be expected in 14-21 days.

SPECIFICATIONS

CELESTIAL Strong Creeping Red Fescue*

98% Minimum purity
90% Minimum germination
500,000 seeds per pound

**protected under the US Plant Variety Protection Act.*

Turfgrass Testing Programs Listed:
NTEP: National Turfgrass Evaluation Program www.ntep.org
TWCA: Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance www.tgwca.org

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Water Requirements

Frequent, light watering is necessary for seed to germinate and become established. After establishment, water infrequently but deeply to encourage root development. Creeping Red Fescue is a cool season (C3) grass that needs regular irrigation to maintain an acceptable turf. Once the grass becomes established it has the ability to withstand moderate drought conditions under reduced irrigation schedules. General irrigation guidelines dictate that turf should be watered in early morning hours and that about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of water should be applied but not to the point of runoff.

Climate Conditions

Creeping Red Fescue is widely distributed throughout the United States except in areas of extreme cold and heat. Water usage is lowest in cool humid regions with highest use in arid regions. Once it becomes established it can withstand periods of heat and drought if maintained under high mowing or no mowing conditions.

Soil Conditions

Fine fescues prefer well drained soil (clay or sandy) with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5.

Fertilization

Use of a starter fertilizer when seeding is highly recommended. Fine Fescues have a low fertility requirement. Apply fertilizer in spring and fall with a balanced, low nitrogen fertilizer similar to a 10-10-10 ratio. Apply no more than 1-2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year.

Mowing

Fine Fescues can be mowed or left unmowed for a natural appearance with seed heads. If being mowed the recommended mowing height is 2 to 3 inches but can go to as low as 1.5 inches in cool weather. A sharp mower blade is essential for a clean cut. Never mow more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at one time.

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