



Turfgrass

Selection

Warm-season Grasses

- * Bermudagrass
- * Buffalograss
- * Zoysiagrass
- Native grasses
 - Bluestem
 - Grama
 - Indiangrass
 - Lovegrass
 - Switchgrass

Cool-season Grasses

- Bentgrass
- Fine fescues
 - Chewings fescue
 - Hard fescue
 - Sheep fescue
 - Red fescue
- * Kentucky bluegrass
- * Perennial ryegrass
- * Tall fescue

- * Most commonly used turfgrasses

Kansas is a unique state when it comes to growing turfgrass. The state has hot summers and cold winters, along with a variety of soils and rainfall averages. Kansas is centrally located on the transition zone of North America where both warm- and cool-season grasses grow. Warm-season grass grows best during the summer, while cool-season grass grows best during the spring and fall. For these reasons, Kansas turfgrass professionals have a complicated job fitting the right turf to an area.

Turfgrass is often selected for its color, leaf texture, and density. However, turfgrass selection involves more than a decision based on visual qualities. Other factors to be considered before choosing a grass include: intended use, maintenance level, pest problems, local climate, soil conditions, shade, and water availability.

Turfgrasses are used for a range of purposes, including residential lawns, general grounds, sports fields, golf courses, and native areas. Each purpose has different requirements of turfgrass. Golf courses require grasses that can be mowed short. Athletic fields need to withstand wear and tear. Low maintenance areas require minimal mowing, watering, and fertilizing. Natural grasses persist with no care at all. There isn't one best grass for all purposes, and there isn't a perfect grass for any one purpose. Turfgrass selection is a matter of choosing a grass that best fits the requirements for each situation. The tables in this section serve as a guide in going through the selection process.

Turfgrass Use

	Residential Lawns	General Grounds	Sports Fields	Golf Courses			Native Areas
				Putting Greens	Tees	Fairways	
Bermudagrass	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲	
Buffalograss	▲	▲	▲			▲	▲
Zoysiagrass	▲	▲			▲	▲	
Creeping bentgrass				▲		▲	
Kentucky bluegrass	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲	
Perennial ryegrass			▲		▲	▲	
Blue/rye mix			▲		▲	▲	
Tall fescue	▲	▲	▲				
Native grasses							▲