



## Variety Comparison

Progress Report NTEP 03-1  
2003 National Tall Fescue Test



Turf Quality

Top 7 Varieties in NTEP

(LSD @ 0.05 = 0.2)  
1-9;9=Ideal Turf

Variety	Rating
SC-1	6.4
3rd Millennium SRP	6.4
Shenandoah Elite	6.4
Monet	6.4
Shenandoah III	6.4
<b>Falcon V</b>	<b>6.4</b>
RKCL*	6.4

\* Represents Varieties not yet commercially named

## BREEDER

NJAES/Rutgers University

## DESCRIPTION

The legend continues with the introduction of Falcon V turf type tall fescue. Falcon V provides added value to the discriminating lawn care professional and ecologically countious homeowner. This very dark green, very dense turf type tall fescue exhibits a unique combination of traits not found in turf type tall fescue. Falcon V exhibits exceptional turf quality, tremendous wear tolerance and is resistant to many turf related diseases including brown patch, leaf spot, winter brown blight and pythium blight. Falcon V is an Eco Smart® Certified variety that requires less cultural and management input which results in a reduced "carbon footprint". Less water, less mowing, less fertilizer and is self repairing due to the presence of advantageous roots and pseudo-rhizomes. In addition, Falcon V is endophyte enhanced with >94% Neotyphodium coenophialum endophyte which provides natural resistance to a number of leaf and crown feeding insects and nematodes. The presence of endophyte also contributes to improved biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, faster seedling establishment, enhanced fall recovery and reduced summer weed invasion. Embrace a Legend and sow Falcon V in your next greening project.

## APPLICATION

Falcon V is recommended for permanent turf in full sun or partial shade, on home lawns, commercial sites, parks, sod farms and golf course roughs. It was developed for the discriminating superintendent, landscaper and top grounds maintenance professionals in a range of environments. Falcon V is best utilized in grass seed mixtures maintained at a high height of cut with Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, hard fescue, sheep fescue or strong creeping red fescue.

## PERFORMANCE

Falcon V is a winner in almost every category of the (NTEP) National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. It tied for first in mean turf quality among 113 entries tested at 28 locations over two (2) years in the NTEP Tall Fescue Progress Report 08-1. In the first NTEP ancillary traffic test evaluation at Rutgers University in 2006 and 2007 Falcon V rated #1 in turf quality following excessive stress from simulated traffic testing. Whether you are planting a lawn in the humid transitional south, the continental climates of the north or high elevation deserts of the west Falcon V will perform beyond your wildest expectations. Catch a rising star and sow Falcon V in your next greening project.

## SEEDING

**Dates:** Spring and fall when soil temperatures are 60°F or higher. Turf type tall fescue is generally slow to tiller once germinated so higher soil temperatures and increasing photoperiod in spring or warm soils with decreasing photoperiod in the fall provide an optimal environment for seedling establishment.

## TURF CHARACTERISTICS

Growth Habit	Estab. Rate days	LHC Tol. ½"	Mowing Freq.	Traffic Tol.	Thatch prod	Comp Mix	N. Req.	Shade Tol.	Cold Tol.	Drought Tol.	ET rate mm/day	Endophyte	Salinity Tol. mmhos
Bunch	Med. 14-21	Poor	2x Week	Very Good	Low-Med	Fair Good	Med 6 lbs*	Very Good	Very Good	Excell.	Very High >10%	Yes >94%	11 good

LHC=low height of cut, ET=evapotranspiration, N=nitrogen per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>; rates may increase or decrease based on location, soil type, irrigation practices, desired turf quality, humidity & other abiotic and biotic factors.



**Variety Comparison**

Progress Report NTEP 08-1  
2006 National Tall Fescue Test



(LSD @ 0.05 = 0.2)  
1-9;9=Ideal Turf



Traffic Stress Quality Variety	Rating
Bullseye	7.9
Monet	7.5
<b>Falcon V</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Firecrackers LS	7.4
SC-1*	7.4
Spyder LS	7.4
Essential	7.4
RK5*	7.3
RKCL*	7.3
T650*	7.3
DP50*	7.3
NA-BT-1*	7.2
Hemi	7.1
PST-5WMB	7.1
Turbo	7.1
Speedway	7.0



\*Represents varieties not yet commercially named

**Rates:** 6-8 lb./1,000 sq. ft. on new seeding and 2-3 lb./1,000 sq. ft. on established turf. Seed count of Falcon V is 235,000 seeds per pound and is dependent on the year of harvest, location of production and seed production practices.

**Depth:** Sow at ¼ to ½ inch. Slice seeding of existing turf may require lowered mowing height or growth regulator to reduce canopy height of existing turf. This management practice enhances establishment of newly emerging tall fescues seedlings.

**CULTURAL PRACTICES**

**Soil preparation:** Prepare firm seed bed free of clods, sticks and vegetative debris. Seed should be in contact with the soil. Tall fescues are best established in well drained soils, but will tolerate heavy soil conditions better than many other cool season grasses.

**pH:** Soil is best maintained at a neutral pH of 7.0. However, Falcon V is adapted to a range of soil pH conditions and will perform relatively well in moderately acidic or alkaline soils.

**NPK requirements:** Falcon V is described as a medium to high user of fertilizer. In Northern regions 4-5 lbs. N/year; in transitional climates 5-7 lbs. N/year. In Southern regions 5-7 lbs. N/year with minimal utilization in summer months to discourage foliar turfgrass diseases such as brown patch. NPK ratios are generally recognized as 5-1-3 with clippings retained on the turf.

**Water use:** Tall fescue is recognized as a dehydration avoidant species (Beard, 1986) with improved drought tolerance. Tall fescue has an abundant deep and fibrous root mass which mines available subsoil moisture during stress periods. ET rate of >10 mm per day is highest among cool season turfgrass. Infrequent but heavy irrigation to stimulate deep subsoil root growth is recommended.

**Thatch management:** Requires little thatch management. Only high N levels with minimal traffic pressure encourages thatch accumulation. Verticutting, lower mowing heights and dethatching are recommended for dormant sod or grass breaking dormancy in the spring. At any given dethatching, never remove more than ½ inch of thatch layer. If the thatch layer is greater than 1 inch, removal must be done over a period of years.

**Mowing height:** Falcon V should be mowed at 1.5-3.0 inch.

**Weed Control:** (From NCSU Pest Control Recommendations for Turfgrass Managers, 2007). In established turf for post-emergent broadleaf control 2, 4-D and *dicamba* (Banvel). Spring pre-emergent control DCPA or *bensulide* (dacthal). Pre-emergent crabgrass and goosegrass control on established tall fescue with *pendimethalin* (Pre-M), *proflam* (Barricade), *oxadiazon+benefin*, or *oryzalin* (Surflan), *benefin* (Balan), *siduron* (Tupersan), *dithiopyr* (Dimension).

