

Cool Season Grasses General Facts & Features

1. Native to the northern hemisphere
2. Adapted to cool, humid to semi-arid areas extending into the transitional zone.
3. Optimum growth ranges – shoots 15-23 C; roots 10-18 C
Main growth periods – **Spring and Autumn**
4. Four main Genus:
 - Bents (Agrostis spp)
 - Ryegrasses (Lolium spp)
 - Fescues (Festuca spp)
 - Bluegrasses (Poa spp)
5. Essentially bunch types – exception creeping bents (stolons) some fescues and poas (rhizomes)
6. Some shade tolerance
7. Do not tolerate frequent, close mowing – except Bents
8. Poorly adapted to droughty soils, high summer temperatures and constant wear
9. Mainly propagated by seed
 - Density occurs through tiller production and suitable initial seeding rate
 - Generally have a weaker more delicate root system
 - Need regular irrigation in the summer period
 - Often killed off by snow or low temperatures in their natural ranges – production of large quantities of seed a survival response in response to this.

Cool Season Features

1. Agrostis palustris.
 - Fine stolons
 - Fine texture
 - Soft touch
 - Membrane ligule
 - Rolled leafbud
2. Festuca nigrescens
 - Very fine texture 1mm
 - Tufted growth habit
 - Stiff to touch
 - Folded leafbud
3. Lolium perenne
 - Fine/medium texture
 - Auricles
 - Folded leafbud
 - Shiny on backs of leaves