

## Boschhoek Summer Active Fescue

Boschhoek Summer Active Fescue, "Festuca arundinacea", is one of the latest maturing summer-active fescues on the market, with a very soft leaf. It has improved palatability over traditional fescues and is summer active and very late maturing, and was bred in South Africa to be very 'animal friendly' with its softer leaf. It's also ideal for heavy soils

A temperate type of perennial tussock-

forming grass with a deep root system, Boschhoek exhibit spring/summer activity with some slow growth in winter, they do not frost off as easily as cocksfoot and phalaris.

For an area of minimum rainfall of 700mm and it is ideal for irrigation or areas with high summer rainfall to maximize the late season benefits. Boschhoek has better heat tolerance than perennial ryegrass.

Boschhoek is suited to a wide range of soil types but best adapted to medium-fine textured soils. Will cope and produce in poorly drained conditions and waterlogging.

Good base rates of phosphorus are necessary for maximum DM production especially during establishment phase. DM production is directly related to nitrogen availability. Consult your Upper Murray Seeds agronomist or fertilizer advisor for nitrogen application rates.

Tall fescue should be sown at approximately 10-20kg/ha on its own or 5-10kg/ha in a perennial blend. Sow into a weed-free seed bed at roughly 1-1.5cm depth. Rolling the seedbed after sowing will aid establishment. Fescues are best sown in autumn, because growth will be slow at soil temper-

atures below 12oC.

Avoid sowing fescue with ryegrass, as fescue has poor seedling vigour while ryegrass is very competitive and has the potential to crowd out the fescue seedlings. Fescue is commonly sown with phalaris or cocksfoot.

During emergence it is essential to monitor regularly for damage from insects such as RLEM and Lucerne flea, and spray as required. Inspect during early stand life for populations of black-headed cockchafer and slugs. Contact your Upper Murray Seeds agronomist for spray applications rates.

Fescue is a slow establishing species so early weed control is crucial to long term viability of the stand. Always use knock-down herbicide to ensure you are sowing into a clean seedbed. Monitor for post-emergent weeds and spray as required. Use options such as spray-grazing for broadleaf weeds once the stand is established.

Boschhoek fescue can be lightly grazed when plants resist pulling and the root system is well developed, this is typically in late winter or early spring. Fescue should be rotationally grazed to ensure the plant does not exceed 10-12cm, which will maximize tillering and encourage active leaf growth.



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