

“Terry’s Best” Shady Lawn Seed Mix

Thank you for selecting “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix*. In my admittedly biased opinion, you can’t find a higher quality lawn seed mix for shady lawns anywhere – at any price! Let me explain why.

First, turfgrass specialists at universities throughout the United States have long recommended that shady lawn seed mixes contain a minimum of two, and preferably three or more fine fescue (chewings, creeping red and/or hard) varieties, one or more shade-tolerant Kentucky bluegrass varieties - and a small percentage of perennial ryegrass as a nurse crop to stabilize bare ground until the fine fescue and Kentucky bluegrass seed germinates two to three weeks after sowing.

The logic behind a greater number of varieties in a seed mix is better performance through diversity.

If, for example, one or even two of the three fine fescue varieties in “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* aren’t well-adapted to the unique conditions in your lawn, at least one variety will pick up the slack, so to speak. Also, even though Kentucky bluegrasses are generally not well-suited for shady conditions, all three of the varieties in this mix, ‘Dynamo,’ ‘Moon Shadow,’ and ‘Award,’ grow quite well in moderate shade – though *not* in the dense shade of a mature maple tree or evergreen! (No lawn grasses, not even fine fescues, will thrive in dense, dry shade.) This gives you extra flexibility in that “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* will also perform very well in sunny parts of your lawn, too!

You’re simply not going to find a shady lawn seed mix that’s as diverse as “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* at a big box store – or even your favorite garden center. Many of their shady lawn seed mixes contain only one variety of fine fescue, and no shade-tolerant Kentucky bluegrass. So, if the single fine fescue variety turns out not to be well-adapted to the conditions in your lawn, thin or bare areas will result – opening the door to weed infestations, including moss!

Next, the fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrasses, and perennial ryegrass in “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* are genetically superior turfgrass varieties. All eight varieties are among the top performers in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (www.ntep.org).

Finally, I have chosen the turfgrass varieties in “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* specifically for their ability to develop into an attractive lawn under moderately low maintenance conditions. This means the varieties in this mix will do well if:

- Fertilized only once or twice a year; most importantly during the last week of August or first week of September, then again during the second or third week of November. In fact, fertilizing shaded lawns more than twice a year can lead to increased susceptibility to various diseases.
- Watered only during periods of *extreme* dry weather. By extreme, I mean four weeks

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Meeting The Needs Of Today With A Vision For The Future

with absolutely no rainfall at all! Without water, the varieties in this mix will enter a deep, protective summer dormancy. As a result, lawns established with “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* might turn tan-colored and stop growing. Don’t panic! With the return of adequate rainfall and cooler weather in late summer, the varieties in “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix* will resume growth, increase in density and end the season in great condition.

Despite my confidence in the quality of “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix*, it’s not a “miracle grass!” It will not grow into the most attractive lawn in your neighborhood if you ,

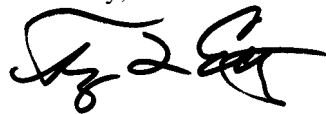
- Mow it shorter than three inches.
- Let it grow more than four inches tall between mowings.
- Fertilize it or use a “*weed n’feed*” product between March and the middle of May.
- Expect it to grow well in the dense, dry shade beneath large shade or evergreen trees – it won’t. In these situations, it’s best to plant dry shade-tolerant perennials or simply cover the ground with a three-inch thick layer of bark or wood mulch. You can find a list of plants tolerant of dry, shaded conditions on my website at
www.tlehcs.com/Special%20Topics/Leaves%20Arent%20Trash/dry%20shade%20plants.htm
- Expect it to grow well in shady parts of your lawn where water stands for days as snow melts in the spring, or after heavy summer thunderstorms – it won’t. In these areas, create landscape beds filled with wet soil-tolerant trees, shrubs and perennials such as those featured in the following section of my website
www.tlehcs.com/Special%20Topics/Wet%20Soil%20Plants/wet%20soil%20plants.htm
- Sow this seed mix any time of year other than between mid-August and the second week in September. Sowing this seed mix, or any lawn seed mix between March and August will almost always result in the establishment of a poor quality lawn.
- Sow this seed mix more than one year after its purchase (always store seed in a cool – ideally 35°F-40°F – and dry location. The warmer the storage conditions, the more quickly lawn seed quality will decline). Remember – grass seed is alive and will die without ever germinating if mistreated!

Enclosed are directions for establishing, renovating or overseeding your lawn with “*Terry’s Best*” *Shady Lawn Seed Mix*. Follow the directions closely and I think that you’ll be very pleased with the results for many years to come.

For additional information on managing your lawn throughout the year, download copies of my “*Central New York Lawn Care Guide*” and “*Recommended Lawn Care Product*” guides from my website at www.tlehcs.com/Special%20Topics/Lawn%20Care/lawn%20care%20intro.htm.

Also, please visit my website, www.tlehcs.com. I update it with lawn care information gleaned from the latest research results from around the country on a regular basis.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Ettinger

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International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #NY-0814