

## ***“Terry’s Best” Sunny Lawn Seed Mix***

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

First, turfgrass specialists at universities throughout the United States have long recommended that Kentucky bluegrass-based, sunny lawn seed mixes contain a minimum of two, and preferably three to five Kentucky bluegrass varieties in combination with at least two fine fescue (chewings, creeping red and/or hard) 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, two of the four Kentucky bluegrass varieties in “*Terry’s Best*” *Sunny Lawn Seed Mix* turn out not to be well-adapted to the unique conditions in your lawn, the other two will pick up the slack, so to speak. Also, even though Kentucky bluegrasses are not generally well adapted to shaded conditions, two of the four varieties in this mix, ‘Arcadia’ and ‘Award,’ grow quite well in moderate shade – though *not* in the dense shade of a mature maple tree or evergreen hedgerow! This gives you extra flexibility in that “*Terry’s Best*” *Sunny Lawn Seed Mix* will also perform quite well in shaded parts of your lawn, too!

You’re simply not going to find a lawn seed mix that’s as diverse as “*Terry’s Best*” *Sunny Lawn Seed Mix* at a big box store – or even your favorite garden center. Most of their lawn seed mixes contain no more than one or two varieties of Kentucky bluegrass and one variety of fine fescue. So, if the single Kentucky bluegrass variety in some big box store lawn seed mixes isn’t well-adapted to the conditions in your lawn, thin or bare areas will result – opening the door to weed infestations!

Next, the Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue and perennial ryegrass in “*Terry’s Best*” *Sunny Lawn Seed Mix* are genetically superior turfgrass varieties. All seven are among the top performers in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program ([www.ntep.org](http://www.ntep.org)). Also, the seed of three of the four Kentucky bluegrass varieties in this mix (‘Arcadia,’ ‘Blue Velvet,’ and ‘NuDestiny’) are *sod quality*. This means there are essentially no impurities mixed in with these seed. You’ll *never* find sod-quality seed in a big box lawn seed mix!

Finally, I have chosen the turfgrass seed varieties in “*Terry’s Best*” *Sunny 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 two to three times per year; most importantly during the last week of August or first week of September, again during the second or third week of November, then possibly a third time during the last week in May or first week in June.

(over)

*Meeting The Needs Of Today With A Vision For The Future*

- Watered only during periods of *extreme* dry weather. By extreme, I mean four weeks with 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*” *Sunny 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*” *Sunny 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*” *Sunny 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](http://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](http://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*” *Sunny Lawn Seed Mix*. Follow them 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](http://www.tlehcs.com/Special%20Topics/Lawn%20Care/lawn%20care%20intro.htm).

Also, please visit my website, [www.tlehcs.com](http://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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