

GCI Turf Services Cool Blue Turf Type Tall Fescue/Kentucky Bluegrass Grass Seed

Thank you for your purchase. We appreciate you and we appreciate the trust you have placed in GCI Turf. I hope our Cool Blue Turf Type Tall Fescue/Kentucky Bluegrass (TTTF/KBG) seed gives you the lawn you have always wanted.

This is a basic “how to plant” your grass seed guide. For a step-by-step detailed guide on “how to grow” your Cool Blue TTTF/KBG please check out my Cool Season Lawn Care Guide. As a thank you, we have discounted the GCI Cool Season Lawn Care Guide to anyone that buys our grass seed. You will need to [USE THIS LINK](#) in order to get the discounted price. If you do purchase my Cool Season Guide you can pick it up in the guide with “round 6” after you've cut your new grass two times.

When should you plant Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed?

Fall is a great time to seed Cool Blue TTTF/KBG. Plant Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed when soil temperatures are between 50° and 65°F. Your air temperature should be around 60° to 75° at this time. To check your soil temperatures be sure and use a very high-quality [SOIL THERMOMETER](#) to ensure accuracy. The fescue in Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed will germinate anywhere from 4 - 10 days. The KBG seed will need more time to germinate because it takes anywhere from 14-30 days to germinate. Mid August - Mid October is a great time frame depending on where you live in the country and what your soil and air temperatures are. Patience is required while waiting on KBG to sprout. Don't get consumed by waiting on the KBG...it will come. I only recommend springtime seeding when absolutely necessary.

Where to plant Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed?

Cool Blue TTTF/KBG needs a minimum of 6 hours full, direct sun. Typically, Cool Blue TTTF/KBG will do best north of the transition zone and in the transition zone. I don't recommend it real far south due to southern harsh summers. Just south of the transition zone you will be fine but be aware that you will need to water more than normal during the summer.

How much seed to use?

- Overseeding into an existing poor lawn: Six - eight (6-8) pounds per 1000 square feet.
- Overseeding into an existing nice lawn: Three - six (3-6) pounds per 1000 square feet.
- Seeding bare ground: Ten (10) pounds per 1000 square feet.

What spreader setting?

I have no clue because I have not used every spreader on the market. I recommend you start off at $\frac{1}{3}$ on the hole opening for your spreader setting. Meaning, only open the spreader holes $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way open. Even if you have to spread seed over your lawn multiple times to get the seed out that is fine. The main goal is to get the seed spread evenly and the correct amount of seed-applied to the correct square footage.

How to plant grass seed?

There are many ways to “plant” grass seed. At the end of the day, seed to soil contact is a priority. You can achieve this in many different ways. If you are used to or have had good luck in the past seeding a certain way, then please continue to use your own method. If you are new to overseeding, then these tips will help you be successful.

THE most important thing when planting Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed is please do not plant the seed more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ” to $\frac{1}{2}$ ” deep into the soil. If you plant Cool Blue TTTF/KBG too deep, it will struggle to come up and sometimes will not come up at all. $\frac{1}{4}$ ” to $\frac{1}{2}$ ” deep is optimal...a light covering of soil is all you need to achieve this depth.

When overseeding into an existing cool-season lawn you need to first cut your lawn down a little shorter than normal. This allows the seed time to germinate before you have to start mowing the lawn again. I do not recommend a complete “scalp” unless your lawn is in very poor condition. If you have to start back mowing before the new seed germinates, feel free to do so. If you water correctly from the start the moisture will “hold” the seed in place so your mower does not disturb the seed.

Using a “slit” or “slice” seeder is a great way to overseed. Just be anal on setting the depth of the machine no more than ¼” to ½” deep.

Core aeration in conjunction with overseeding into an existing lawn or renovation is a great way to achieve seed to soil contact. If you have been successful with this method in the past then chances are you will be successful again.

When seeding Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed on bare dirt one thing is absolutely crucial...loose ground! Do not even attempt to throw down Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed, or any other grass seed on hard ground...it does not work. You can loosen the ground many ways. You can use a hoe, maddock, shovel, plugger, aerator, tiller, aeravator, any other piece of equipment designed to loosen soil when bare dirt seeding.

Should you use a starter fertilizer?

My answer to that will be yes 100% of the time. Apply a high-quality “starter fertilizer” the same day you seed. If you choose a granular starter fertilizer like [Protene 15-22-10](#), apply this fertilizer at 4.5 pounds per 1000 square feet. This can be applied right before or right after you spread your grass seed on the same day. If you need an entry-level spreader you can find that [HERE](#). If you are wanting a spreader that will last you a lifetime then consider a [professional grade spreader](#) just like we have been using for over 15 years.

If you prefer a liquid starter fertilizer like [16-21-2 GreenePOP](#) you will need to spray this right after you spread your grass seed. Be sure you spray accurately and efficiently with a high-quality battery backpack sprayer, please see our selection of battery-powered sprayers [HERE](#). Water immediately after this liquid starter fertilizer application.

Watering Cool Blue TTTF/KBG Seed

The trick to seed germination is to KEEP THE SEED MOIST! Water multiple times a day, light and frequently every day to ensure the ground and seed stay moist. Cool Blue TTTF/KBG seed can take anywhere from 4 to 10 days to germinate depending

on environmental conditions. Be patient...it will come up with time. Once you have germination you can slowly revert back to watering 1" per week...deep and infrequent. During hot, dry weather established Cool Blue TTTF/KBG may need as much as 1.5" - 2" of water per week.

Mowing Cool Blue TTTF/KBG

On bare dirt allow the seed to come in full before you begin mowing. You will want at least 75% coverage. I consider 4 - 4.5 inches a "tall" cut for Cool Blue TTTF/KBG. This turfgrass will do best between 4" and 4.5" during the hot summer months. If overseeding an existing lawn, you may need to mow a little lower right before overseeding. This gives the seedlings time to come up before you have to start mowing again. If you water correctly from the start the moisture will "hold" the seed in place so your mower does not disturb the seed.

Thank you again for trusting GCI Turf with your grass seed choice. We appreciate your business. We would LOVE to see before and after pictures of your Cool Blue TTTF/KBG lawn. Please send those to contact@gciturfacademy.com.

Thank you!

Pete
GCI Turf

