



MAINTENANCE TIPS

TALL FESCUE LAWNS

Medallion[®] Medallion *Plus*[®] Medallion Dwarf with **Bonsai**[®]

MOWING:

Newly installed Medallion variety lawns should be mowed approximately 14 days after installation. Thereafter, follow the recommended schedule listed below, always using a clean, sharp rotary or reel mower. Avoid mowing when the turf is wet, or removing more than one-third of the top growth at one time. When mowing on a regular schedule, remove the clippings for a more groomed appearance.

Variety	Cutting Height	Mowing Interval
Medallion	2"	5-7 Days
Medallion <i>Plus</i>	2"	5-7 Days
Medallion Dwarf with Bonsai	1.5-2"	7-10 Days

During the warmer months in inland valleys and desert environments, the cutting height should be raised ½ to 1" on all varieties of Medallion lawns. During the cooler months when the growth slows down, the mowing interval may be increased to 10 to 14 days or longer, especially on the Medallion Dwarf varieties.

WATERING:

Established Medallion variety lawns (six months or older) are generally very deep-rooted and will perform well under a wide variety of soil conditions. To encourage deep rooting and improve drought tolerance, a regular schedule of deep early morning waterings is best.

During the warm summer months in the hot inland areas and desert environments, 3 or more irrigations per week may be necessary. Cooler coastal areas may require only 1 to 2 waterings per week. During the winter's cooler months, 3 to 4 irrigations or less per month may be sufficient to maintain a quality lawn.

The best rule of thumb for watering your Medallion variety lawn is to water as deeply and infrequently as possible while avoiding runoff. As a general guide, 15 to 20 minutes of irrigation may be considered a deep watering for most areas.

Remember that soil types, depth of soil, weather, rainfall, sun or shade, and the quality of turf desired should all be considered when determining your watering schedule.

Areas of grayish-blue, fine textured blades are a sign of wilted fescue grass and may indicate insufficient water, plugged or broken sprinkler heads, or poor sprinkler coverage. Increase water to these "hot spots" by occasionally soaking the stressed areas with a slow-running garden hose and troubleshooting your sprinkler system. Be sure to troubleshoot the irrigation system at your earliest opportunity.

FERTILIZATION:

Fertilize your Medallion variety lawn approximately 2 to 3 weeks after installation. Turfgrass fertilizers are available in a wide variety of choices. Some fertilizers contain only nitrogen, which is the primary nutrient for turfgrass color control. Different sources of nitrogen will give different growth rates and color responses, depending on the season. Fast release products that contain the nitrate form of nitrogen are best used from late October through February, while the slow release products are recommended from March through September. Medallion variety lawns require ½ to ¾ pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn every month. Always water after applying fertilizers, and before mowing your lawn.

Fertilizers that contain phosphorous and potassium, as well as some minor nutrient elements, are known as complete fertilizers. The best fertilizer program for your Medallion variety lawn will include an application of a complete fertilizer once in the spring and once again in the fall months.

During the summer months, fertilizer rates should be cut in half to lower water use, and to reduce susceptibility to disease. Ask your nurseryman for assistance in developing a well-balanced, consistent, year-round program. Always read and follow the fertilizer label instructions as to rates and methods of application.

WEEDS:

For almost all weeds, both grassy and broadleaf types, chemical controls are most effective during the fall and spring months. To lessen the chance of herbicide damage, be sure that your turf is in a vigorous growing condition prior to application of the herbicide. Consult with your local nurseryman prior to the use of an herbicide. Read and follow all label information on rates and timing of applications.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

TALL FESCUE LAWNS

INSECTS:

Insect damage on turf is normally found during the warmer months. Grubs, billbugs, sod webworms, cut worms, and army worms are the most troublesome. Feeding damage occurs on the crowns of plants near the soil surface or on the roots just below the soil surface. Small brown irregular patches of wilted turf are common symptoms of insect damaged turf. Consult with your nurseryman -- bring in an insect specimen if possible, and ask for control recommendations on the use of a lawn insecticide. Remember to read and follow all label instructions.

DISEASES:

Established, well-maintained Medallion variety lawns are resistant to most turf disease problems. However, over-watered and poorly maintained turf is generally more susceptible to damage. Below is a list of potential disease problems and some tips to aid in their prevention.

NOTE: Wilted areas due to lack of water are often confused with disease symptoms. Please reread section on watering.

LEAF SPOT -- Appears in cool weather; identified by yellow blotches and spots on healthy leaves. Severely infected leaves will completely lose color, turn yellow and die. More of a problem on closely mowed turf, heavy, wet soils, and on heavily fertilized lawns. Should improved cultural practices not reduce disease symptoms, a fungicide treatment may be necessary.

BROWN PATCH -- Our new improved varieties of fescue grass have shown improved resistance to Brown Patch. However, it may become a problem in warm weather on heavily fertilized or over-watered turf. Symptoms vary greatly, however, it most commonly appears in roughly circular patches of dead leaves that may vary from a few inches to a foot or more in diameter. A fungicide treatment in conjunction with improved maintenance practices is recommended to reduce turf damage.

PYTHIUM BLIGHT -- A potentially damaging disease that normally occurs during the warmer months of summer. Over-watered, poorly drained, and heavily fertilized turf is the most susceptible. Backyard lawns where air movement is reduced by trees, tall fences, or dense

shrubbery are also very likely to experience Pythium damage. Left untreated in conditions favorable to the disease, Pythium can spread quickly and be very damaging. Improved maintenance practices and a fungicide application are recommended. For Leaf Spot and Brown Patch, numerous fungicide formulations are available. Fungicides for Pythium Blight are much more specific to this disease. Consult with your local nursery/garden center. Always read and follow all label instructions on herbicides and fungicides.

SHADE/OVERSEEDING:

Medallion variety lawns generally require 4 to 5 hours of sunlight to thrive and maintain adequate density. Lawns planted in less than ideal light, generally will be slower to root and establish, and will be more susceptible to damage from foot traffic and heavy use.

Avoid planting Medallion variety lawns in heavy shade beneath trees and landscape structures, along the north side of buildings and walls, or along narrow walkways between buildings. In most cases, heavy shade will eventually result in the loss of part or all of the turf. In partially shaded areas where sufficient light is available to sustain the turf, a 1" HIGHER mowing height, reduced amounts of nitrogen, less frequent irrigation, and reduced foot traffic and wear will help to maintain higher quality turf.

Despite an improved maintenance program for lawns grown in reduced light, Medallion variety lawns will still gradually thin out and lose their density under such circumstances. In order to sustain your lawn's vigor and density, a program of regular overseeding is recommended.

Overseed at a rate of 5 pounds per 1000 square feet with the appropriate variety seed blend in the early fall and again, if necessary, in the early spring. Begin by closely mowing the existing lawn to 1" and uniformly broadcasting the seed over the lawn. Lightly rake the seed in to insure good soil contact, and lightly top-dress the area with a weed free organic topper. Maintain adequate moisture over a two-week period to insure uniform germination.



Main Office
305 West Hueneme Road
Camarillo, CA 93102
800-942-5296

Northern California
780 Flint Road
San Juan Bautista, Ca 95045
800-942-5296

www.PacificSod.com