



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



*Photo Credit:  
Ioka Farms, Inc.*

## INTRODUCING... OREGON GRASS SEED

Oregon has built a global reputation for producing top quality and large volumes of grass seed. Landscapers, golf courses, sports fields, and livestock managers around the world rely on premium seed originating from Oregon. As natural grass has regained popularity over artificial turf for golf courses, backyards, and professional sports fields, Oregon has expanded capacity to meet this increasing global demand.

### GRASS IS BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Natural grass cools the environment around it.
- Natural grass areas absorb water runoff and prevent erosion.
- Grass captures and retains carbon, mitigating global warming.
- A well-maintained natural lawn will last forever, whereas artificial turf breaks down – shedding microplastic contaminants into the soil and landfills.
- The creation of plastic turf involves chemical processes that are harmful to the environment and involve mass amounts of petroleum products.

### HEALTH BENEFITS OF NATURAL GRASS

Grass is better for those playing on the field. When athletes run across natural grass, the impact on their joints is gentler than artificial turf. Grass also dissipates heat, reducing the incidence of heat stroke and overall fatigue over playing on artificial turf.

### 5 FACTS ABOUT OREGON GRASS SEED

1. Located halfway between the Equator and North Pole, with deep, glacial soils and a climate that promises cool, moist winters and warm summers, Oregon's Willamette Valley is ideally suited for grass seed production.
2. The Willamette Valley is the world's largest producer of cool-season grass seed, including tall fescue, ryegrass, fine fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and bentgrass.
3. Twelve hundred family farms spanning 400,000 acres (162,000 hectares) produce approximately 650 million pounds (295 kilotonnes) of grass seed each year. Then, 50 seed companies and supporting firms process and market this immense supply.
4. Ninety-eight percent of Oregon grass seed is sold out of state, with approximately 15-20% being exported to more than 77 different countries.
5. Every premier sporting event has used hardy Oregon grass seed: World Cup Soccer, the Super Bowl, the Rose Bowl, the World Series, the Olympics, and the world's finest golf courses.

Grass seed provides many critical environmental benefits. It's regenerative, has major, positive impacts on soil health, water quality, erosion control, and importantly is a great tool for carbon sequestration and cooling.



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OREGON GRASS SEED OPTIONS			
TYPE OF GRASS SEED	ABOUT	COLOR	USAGE
Ryegrass	Germinates in 7-10 days. Reduces need for pesticides, controls weeds, and unwanted vegetation.	Dark Green	Lawns, turfs, and forage. Blended with other species for diversification.
Tall Fescue	Inherent tolerance for shade, drought, heat, cold, and wear. Also resistant to diseases and insects.	Dark Green	Lawns, turfs, low-maintenance green spaces and forage.
Fine Fescue	Environmentally friendly due to its resistance to drought, disease, and insects.	Green	Lawns, golf courses, and blended with other species for diversification.
Kentucky Bluegrass	Kentucky bluegrass is a self-spreading sod-forming grass that adds density and diversification to mixes.	Bright green to bluish green.	Lawn, various turfs, forage, and blended with other species for diversification.
Bentgrass	Commonly used for forage and turf, there are several varieties of this grass to tolerate a range of climates.	Dark Green	Golf courses, lawns, and various turfs.

Learn More

For more info and tips about Oregon grass seed:  
Oregon Seed Council: [oregonseedcouncil.org](https://oregonseedcouncil.org)  
Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission: [ryegrass.com](https://ryegrass.com)  
Oregon Fine Fescue Commission: [oregonfinefescue.org](https://oregonfinefescue.org)  
Oregon Tall Fescue Commission: [oregontallfescue.org](https://oregontallfescue.org)

Agricultural Development & Marketing Program



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