



SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

Water Conservancy District

"Your investment in water"

Water Wise Demonstration Garden

Experimental Grass Plots

The ten Experimental Grass Plots were installed to test the water needs, hardiness, ease of care and aesthetic qualities of various turf grass species and grass mixes available in Southeastern Colorado.

Each plot has three watering zones that showcase the performance of each grass under these varying amounts of water. The plots are five feet wide by eighteen feet long. The signs at the far east edge of the plots show the different water zones across the plots. They are numbered 1-10 from right to left (west to east).

Test Plot 1: Buffalo Grass

Test Plot 2: Legacy Buffalo Grass

Legacy was developed to replicate the lush green of higher water requirement lawns but is very drought and disease resistant. It can handle a little more traffic than other varieties of Buffalo grass. It is often available as "plugs" and will grow and fill in within one season.

Test Plot 3: Prestige Buffalo Grass

Prestige is another recent release from the University of Nebraska. It is a fine bladed soft green grass that grows to a height of 4" to 6". This is a very drought tolerant grass.

Test Plot 4: Native Natural Turf

Purity	Variety
29.81%	Annual Ryegrass
19.81%	Tall Fescue
13.41%	Smooth Brome
14.55%	Intermediate
09.75%	Forage Pern
04.99%	Timothy
04.77%	Orchardgrass
00.36%	Other Crop
02.38%	Inert Matter
00.17%	Weed Seed

Test Plot 5: Mountain Grass Mix

Purity	Variety
40%	Annual Ryegrass
20%	Triticale
15%	Bull Tall Fescue
10%	Kentucky Bluegrass
05%	Smooth Bromegrass
05%	Timothy
05%	White Dutch Clover

Test Plot 6: Western Drought – Defy

Purity	Variety
75%	Annual Ryegrass
25%	Prairie Junegrass

Test Plot 7: Forever Green Turf Mix

Purity	Variety
50%	Barlennium Perennial Ryegrass
30%	Barcampsia Tufted Hair-Grass
20%	Award Kentucky Bluegrass

Test Plot 8: Kentucky Bluegrass Sod

Purity	Variety
24.82%	Awesome Kentucky Bluegrass
24.82%	Rugby II Kentucky Bluegrass
24.77%	Perfection Kentucky Bluegrass
24.29%	Nuglade Kentucky Bluegrass
00.02%	Other Crop
01.26%	Inert Matter
00.02%	Weed Seed

Test Plot 9: Bella Bluegrass

Bella Bluegrass, the only dwarf, vegetative bluegrass in the turf industry, is sure to revolutionize the bluegrass market. Originally developed by the University of Nebraska over a decade ago, Bella does not produce significant viable seeds, but because of its ability to re-grow from rhizomes and its rapid horizontal growth, it was a perfect candidate for vegetative propagation.

"Bella has a dense turf canopy that helps prevent weed growth," said Wayne Thorson, owner of Todd Valley Farms, the licensed owner of Bella. "Since Bella only grows three to four inches tall, the end user can reduce mowing by 50 to 80 percent."

Test Plot 10: Low Work and Water From High Country Gardens

Slow growing & naturally dwarf fescue grass
Dwarf Fescue Blend
Tolerates Sandy, Clay and Average Soils
USDA zones 4 through 10
Tolerates full sun to part day shade



More information can be found on our website:

www.secwcd.org/content/turf-replacement

