

Rhizomatous Tall Fescue

What is RTF and its benefits?

RTF Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) is a unique tall fescue that produces rhizomes. The rhizome (creeping underground stem) sends a shoot up to the soil surface while extending new roots downwards, forming new plant growth. This unique characteristic among tall fescues enables RTF to offer superior surface traction strength, stability and recovery in comparison with other tall fescues.

RTF is also capable of superior drought avoidance in comparison with other cool-season grass species through its greater root mass and deep rooting depth capability, allowing it to maintain evapo-transpiration as the soil dries out. The greater root mass means more root hairs to make maximum utilization of any available soil water. This also facilitates transpirational cooling when under heat stress. RTF produces more fructane (soluble sugar) under high temperature stress and accumulates drought-induced proteins. This production of higher levels of fructane fuels the plant and assists in translocation whilst the accumulation of proteins helps maintain the physiological integrity of the cells. The leaf structure is more fibrous, requiring less water to remain turgid.



RTF is available in two mixtures, BAR 10 RTF and RTF TURF

BAR 10 RTF and RTF TURF are recommended for rugby, football, turf production, golf tees, fairways, semi-roughs and walkways, polo pitches and racecourses.

Award winning water saver

RTF is also an award winner. With water supplies likely to become more scarce and more expensive it makes sense to conserve as much as possible.

RTF needs less water than other cool season grass species and as a result has earned the prestigious Waterwise Marque.



For further technical advice please call Barenbrug UK Ltd on **01359 272000**
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Applied research

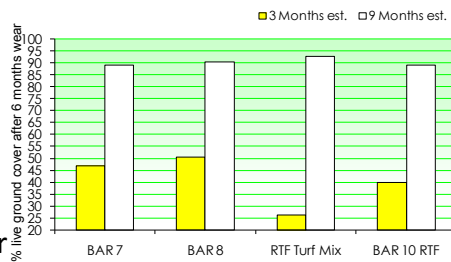
Here at Barenbrug we believe thorough applied research through trials and testing is absolutely essential to demonstrate performance potential and capability.

Summary of Findings

Two separate independent trials were commissioned with Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) to assess the wear performance and recovery and the surface traction/tensile strength of RTF mixtures in comparison with traditional perennial ryegrass mixtures for heavy-wear applications.

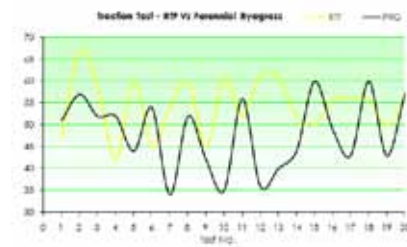
Trial one: Wear Tolerance Trial

The outcomes of the first independent trial demonstrated that RTF's wear tolerance is equal to that of sports perennial ryegrass mixtures after a longer establishment period and also confirmed its excellent recovery capabilities even after severe wear stress following a short establishment period.



Trial two: Surface Traction Test

The second independent trial tested samples of RTF turf and sports perennial ryegrass turf for traction, with RTF turf shown to offer significantly and consistently better surface stability and traction grip than the perennial ryegrass turf.



Trial three: Water Deficit Restitution Trial (Grass Diversity Biosystem (GDB 06)

The Water Deficit Restitution Trial (GDB 06) assessed cool season grasses under different water management levels. The trial design was to study mixtures of the three major cool season, wear tolerant species, tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), smooth-stalked meadowgrass (*Poa pratensis*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) under controlled climatic data and differential water return.

Tall fescue, as anticipated, was less affected by critical drought stress conditions than the other species and was more stable. However, one of the successful outcomes of this trial demonstrated the importance of individual cultivar selection of other cool season species to partner tall fescue in mixtures. These outcomes have and will continue to influence the development of RTF mixtures such as BAR 10 RTF for the future.

One of the key findings is tall fescue mixed with the preferred cool season partner offers significant water saving benefits. Tall fescue mixtures such as BAR 10 RTF can offer irrigation savings of as much as 50-60%, a feat no other species can get close to.

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RTF in action



BAR 10 RTF AND RTF TURF



Both BAR 10 RTF and RTF TURF are recommended for rugby, football, polo pitches, racecourses, golf tees, walkways, fairways and semi-roughs. The mixtures are suitable for professional landscape stabilisation projects.

Minimum 3 months establishment is required from overseeding, 9 months from new construction; sow at warmer soil temperatures minimum 12°C. Deep rooting capability, tolerant of both waterlogging and drought. High tensile strength and excellent soil/rootzone stabilisation



BAR 10 RTF with 10% perennial ryegrass has a slightly faster establishment compared to **RTF TURF** which also includes 10% smooth stalk meadowgrass for additional tensile strength and easier harvesting when produced as turf.

Sowing rate 35-50g per m² **Sowing depth** 12-15mm

Visit www.barenbrug.co.uk/rtf for the latest mixture formulation and mixture synergy information.

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