



SEED & SUPPLIES FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## **NON-MOW FINE FESCUE BLEND**

One of the most popular of our fine fescue seed mixes is the *Non-Mow Fine Fescue Blend* designed to provide a relatively uniform stand of low-to-medium-statured, fine-textured grasses visually and culturally compatible with the fine fescues available as sod.

NON-MOW FINE FESCUE BLEND (150 lbs/acre)

34% Festuca rubra subsp. rubra 'Jasper II' Creeping Red Fescue

33% Festuca, rubra subsp. commutata 'Intrigue' Chewings Fescue

33% Festuca longifolia 'Firefly' Hard Fescue

**ESTABLISHMENT:** The establishment and subsequent maintenance of this ornamental grass cover ought to be approached with different expectations than routine turf-type procedures. The site manager would benefit from a clear understanding of the *relatively low input nature* of this planted landscape. Irrigation and fertilizer must be applied at appropriate levels and intervals in order to achieve the desired growth of healthy plants.

**INSTALLATION:** The optimal seeding would occur in late spring. Early fall is a good second option. Greater challenges will be encountered if seeding is done in summer or winter. Weed growth often presents serious competition to initial establishment, and seeding just prior to or during the coldest period of winter may only compound the problem; new seedling growth may also be inhibited during the hottest summer period.

**IRRIGATION:** For maximum growth, areas of a project planted to the *Non-Mow Fine Fescue Blend* would need almost as much water as the rest of the landscaped areas. Once established, supplemental irrigation will be required. With sufficient water at the right time (80% E.T.), this blend can produce a groundcover approximately 12 to 16 inches in height within 12 to 16 months from seeding at optimal times of year.

**FERTILIZATION:** After establishment, these fescues perform best with about one-half the nutrition provided to traditional cool season lawns. For ongoing needs, 1 lb/1,000 sq.ft. of actual N in the spring and 1 lb in the fall should support these grasses at an appropriate density.

**WEED CONTROL:** A variety of weed control scenarios is possible: mowing during initial establishment, timely mowing to remove weed seed heads, and chemical controls. Many clients may enjoy significant benefits from investigating the potential use of post emergence herbicides based on the active ingredient sethoxydim and 2,4-D products in order to manage both grassy and broad-leaf weeds in these fine fescue plantings. Once established, a healthy stand of the *Non-Mow Fine Fescue Blend* may be sustained with virtually no mowing or weeding at all.