

The background of the entire image is a close-up, top-down view of a dense carpet of green grass. The blades are long and narrow, with some showing a slight yellowish-green tint, possibly due to lighting or the specific grass species. The texture is very busy and organic.

Choosing a turfgrass species for water conservation

A turfgrass species should be chosen based on the intended function, in regards to appearance and wear and tear.

Why turfgrass?

Turfgrass has become controversial due to its perceived high irrigation requirements.

While turfgrass does require management through irrigation, it has many benefits to the soil, appearance, and livability of an outdoor space.

Irrigation requirements can be reduced through careful selection of turfgrass species and improving the irrigation system.

Myths

Myth:

Low-water use turfgrasses always use little water.

Fact:

Water needs shift daily and seasonally regardless of turfgrass species.

Myth:

Kentucky bluegrass uses way more water than tall fescue.

Fact:

Kentucky bluegrass uses the same or less water to manage, loses less water through evapotranspiration, and recovers better after drought.

Myth:

The species of turfgrass is the most important factor in water loss.

Fact:

The performance of the turfgrass depends on environmental conditions and the quality of the irrigation system more than the species of grass.



Facts

Turfgrass helps regulate heat in outdoor environments and manage soil health through lessening erosion and increasing water infiltration.

Warm-season grasses and cool-season grasses are a tradeoff between less water use for the warm-season grasses and longer green appearance for the cool-season grasses.

In Southern New Mexico, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and bermudagrass perform well due to their ability to recover from heavy use.