

TALL FESCUE AND RYEGRASS DIFFER

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Tall fescue, *Festuca arundinacea*, (varieties Alta, Ky 31, etc.) seed lots are often adulterated with ryegrass. Fescue may be easily distinguished from ryegrass by close observation of the seed. A low-power (4X) glass will make this distinction easier.

RACHILLA: (The small stalk-like structure at base of seed, inner side)

Tall fescue: Cylindrical and slender, the apex expanded into a disc.

Ryegrass: Flat, wide and strap-like and slightly wider toward the top, the apex not expanded into a disc.

SHAPE:

Tall fescue: Lance-shaped; apex long-pointed.

Ryegrass: Narrowly oblong; awned. (Perennial ryegrass awnless)



Tall Fescue
Festuca arundinacea



Italian Ryegrass
Lolium multiflorum

