



Grass Seed Selection Guide for Long Island

Species profiles, seeding rates, and the LI performance ratings you need before you buy

ZONE 7B

Species Performance on Long Island (Zone 7B, Sandy Soil)

SPECIES	DROUGHT	SHADE	DISEASE	TRAFFIC	SELF-REPAIR	GERMINATION	BEST USE ON LI
Tall Fescue (TTTF)	EXCEL	GOOD	GOOD	EXCEL	POOR	7 to 14 days	Primary species for LI sun areas. Deep roots on sand. Dominant in most blends.
Kentucky Bluegrass (KBG)	FAIR	FAIR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL	14 to 21 days	Self-repair via rhizomes. Dense turf. Needs irrigation on LI sand. Blend at 10 to 20%.
Perennial Ryegrass (PRG)	POOR	FAIR	FAIR	EXCEL	POOR	5 to 10 days	Quick fill-in. Fastest germination. Nurse grass for KBG. Blend at 10 to 20%.
Fine Fescue (FF)	GOOD	EXCEL	GOOD	POOR	POOR	10 to 14 days	Shade specialist. Under trees, north side of house. Low N requirement (1.50 lbs/yr).

Seeding Rates (lbs per 1,000 sq ft)

PURPOSE	KBG	TALL FESCUE	PRG	BLEND
Patch repair (thin spots)	1 to 2	4 to 6	4 to 6	4 to 6
Full overseed (thicken up)	2 to 3	6 to 8	6 to 8	6 to 8
Full renovation (start over)	2 to 3	8 to 10	8 to 10	8 to 10

More seed is NOT better. Overcrowding creates weak, spindly seedlings competing for light, water, and nutrients. Stick to these rates. Use SeedGenius Pro at bladebosshq.com/lawn-tools to calculate exact amounts for your lawn.

Overseeding Window by Species (Long Island Zone 7B)

JUL 1 TO AUG 14 Too hot. Do not seed.	AUG 15 TO SEP 1 KBG window. Slowest germ. Start early.	SEP 1 TO SEP 15 TTTF + Blend. Ideal for most lawns.	SEP 15 TO OCT 5 PRG only. Fast germ. Last chance.	AFTER OCT 5 Too late. Risk of winter kill.
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Recommended Products for Long Island

Top Seed Picks	
Best TTTF blend	JG Black Beauty Ultra
Best KBG	Jonathan Green Blue Panther
Best shade mix	JG Dense Shade
Best budget blend	Pennington Smart Seed
Best for renovation	GCI TTTF Blend

Seeding Essentials	
Starter fertilizer	Lesco 18-24-12
Pre-em at seed	Tenacity (only option)
Seed cover	EZ-Straw w/ Tackifier
Moisture retention	Sphagnum peat moss
Soil test	MySoil kit or Cornell CCE (\$5)

Germination Watering Schedule	
Days 1 to 14 (germination)	2-3x/day, 5-10 min
Days 14 to 28 (emergence)	1x/day, 10-15 min
Days 28 to 42 (establish)	Every other day, deeper
Week 6+ (normal care)	0.5 in every 2-3 days
First mow height	3 inches

Sandy Soil Warnings (CEC 3 to 8)	
Surface dries in	4 to 6 hours
Water more often	3x/day, not 2x
Starter fert leaches	Reapply at 3 weeks
Peat moss helps	1/4 inch topdress
South Shore (CEC 2-5)	Extra caution needed

This is the universal guide. Your lawn has zones.

SeedGenius Pro calculates exact rates, recommends cultivars, and builds your watering schedule.

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