

1/20/22

Nepenthe Association Grounds Committee

Re: Grounds Committee meeting 1/20/2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information at your meeting. Carson Landscape is here to support the Association in meeting its goals, we are happy to provide pricing, install and maintain any plant material requested. As a professional resource we can provide advice and recommendations for anything being considered.

As per our discussion today regarding Turf Remediation. The type of sod or seed blend we use is a mixture of 90-95% Dwarf Tall Fescues (Turf Type Tall Fescue) and 5-10 % Kentucky Bluegrass (see attached info sheet). The Dwarf Tall Fescue in the blends are considered drought tolerant and generally require less water to keep them looking green and healthy than the type of grasses that are predominant in your community now. Kentucky Bluegrass is added to provide a more pleasing texture, darker green color and faster spreading regrowth.

What you have now in many areas would be classified as high water use turf because of the shallow rooting characteristics that requires frequent irrigation during the summer to prevent dieback.

Rhizomatous Tall (RTF) Fescue is a “brand” name for a Dwarf Tall Fescue seed/sod that is noted for its deep rooting and drought tolerance. The blend of seed/sod that we typically use is very similar to this and has these characteristics. We can use a mixture with “RTF” named seeds in it, but it is roughly 25% more in cost.

When we talk about drought tolerance and lower water use it must be understood that drought tolerance in plants is a plant that has the ability to survive periods of low water (drought) and not die. During this period, they may go into dormancy and may not look as attractive as when water is readily available. Drought tolerant plants are able to re-grow and reproduce when water is re-established. During low water the plants may lose color, have reduced flowering, and may have partial die back. When water is available, they can recover, provide new growth flushes and flower in order to try to reproduce. Landscapes with drought tolerant plants growing in low water conditions will have a different more “natural” wild look to them than other plant selections or when ample water is available.



PRODUCERS & INSTALLERS OF PREMIUM PEAT GROWN SOD

GROWN ON DEGRADABLE NETTING

90/10 Tall Fescue

Penn RK4 Tall Fescue

Rebel XLR Tall Fescue

Firecracker SLS Tall Fescue

Ridgeline Kentucky Bluegrass

-
- TWCA and A-List Turf certified varieties provide superior drought tolerance with deep water seeking roots
 - Salt Tolerant Lateral Spread (SLS) varieties provide enhanced plant density and recovery in high traffic areas
 - Dark green color year round, adapts to shade and winters well
 - Low maintenance with very little thatch buildup
 - Excellent heat tolerance and improved disease resistance
 - Mowing height as low as 1-1/2 to 2 inches



P.O. Box 307 · Stockton, California 95201 · (800) 637-8873 · www.deltabluegrass.com

Updated 02/19/2018

Carson's opinion on alternative turf options that were suggested by others:

Kurapia

Kurapia is a low growing plant that is being marketed as a low water alternative to turf. Grows 3-4" tall and produces numerous white flowers.

Our experience with Kurapia is the flowers attract bees and it isn't particularly attractive. It isn't well suited for being walked on. Attached is a photo of an area in Elk Grove planted about 5 years ago. Only grassy weeds can be controlled with post emergent herbicides, so any broadleaf weed has to be hand pulled.



Myoporum

Myoporum is a similar ground cover plant but grows taller, about 8-12" tall and is woody in texture. It also produces small white flowers that attracts bees.

Our experience with Myoporum is that its leaves and stems are very sticky. Anything that blows in it tends to stick and is difficult to remove. Its woody growth can be unattractive over time. Bees can also be a problem

Myoporum growing in HOA near Rocklin.



Buffalograss

Buffalograss is a warm-season grass meaning it goes dormant and brown in the winter like Bermudagrass. It does best in full sun and does poorly when wet. Although the grass was bred and developed by researchers at UC Davis, it does best in warmer dryer climates of Southern CA and AZ, the developers own website shows a map of its ideal growing area shown below.

UC Verde® Is Born

'Legacy' was followed in late 2003 by UC Verde®, an introduction from the University of California and a selection specifically bred for most of California and the low desert valleys, including Phoenix, Arizona. This cultivar was the result of years of research at UC Davis and Riverside. 'UC Verde®' has been shown to get by on 12" of water per year and maybe less, makes a beautiful groomed turf at 2-3" tall, or it may be grown as a short meadow at 6 to 8" in height.

Sustainable Features Include:

UC Verde® is the ONLY buffalograss that was bred in California for California's unique climate, making it an ideal and sustainable lawn substitute.



Davis CA Lawn planted with UC Verde Buffalograss April 2019

Dwarf Tall Fescue in lower basin because of wetter area

