

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH439



FESTUCA

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Blue Fescue
- Scientific name: *Festuca glauca*
- Native to Europe
- Semi-evergreen perennial grass
- Grows in neat clumps 6-12'' tall
- Fine, wiry leaves are coated with a grayish powdery bloom responsible for the plant's blue-gray sheen
- Plants form flowering stems in summer that actually detract from the overall appearance
- Hardy in zones 4-8

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Develops deeper foliage color when grown in full sun
- Tolerates partial shade

- Drought tolerant; grows best in sandy, well-drained media
- Cannot tolerate heavy, wet media or constant high humidity
- Performs best in cool, dry climates; goes dormant during hot summers

PROPAGATION

- Easily grown from seed
- Clumps should be divided every 2-3 years in spring or autumn to maintain vigor

DISORDERS

- Rust (*Puccinia sp.*)
 - Brown powdery areas form on leaves and stems
 - Remove infected foliage

CONSUMER CARE

- Prune flowers to maintain quality foliage
- Tolerates salty soil and coastal conditions
- Short-lived; will need to be replaced every few years
- Normally used in groups as a border or edging plant
- Makes a striking groundcover if divided regularly

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Festuca glauca*
 - 'Elijah Blue': true, deep blue; more vigorous than other cultivars

References

http://www.floridata.com/ref/F/fest_gla.cfm
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/ornamental_grass/festuca_glauca.html