Are cool-season or warm-season grasses best for NC lawns?

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It Depends!!

- Location within the state
- Property owner preferences:
  - Cost of establishment / maintenance
  - Level of quality desired
  - Management effort the owner is willing to provide
Cool-season Grasses

- Introduced into the U.S. from Europe and Northern Asia
- Have an optimum growth temperature of 60 – 75 F
- Adaptation limited by their heat and drought stress tolerance
- Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescues, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue.
Warm-season Grasses

• Introduced into the U.S. from Africa, China, Southeast Asia.
• Have an optimum growth temperature of 80 – 95 F
• Adaptation primarily limited by their lack of cold tolerance.
• Bermudagrasses (common / hybrid), Centipedegrass, St. Augustine grass, Zoysiagrasses.
The Transition Zone....

Much of Central NC is in the **transition zone**; an area where the summers are too hot for cs grasses to thrive and the winters are too cold for the ws grasses to maintain winter growth and quality.
Lawn Grasses for Central NC

* Tall fescue (sod or seed)
* Tall fescue / bluegrass blend (sod or seed)
* Zoysiagrass (sod / plugs / seed)
* Centipedegrass (sod / seed)
* Common Bermudagrass (usually seed)
tall fescue
Advantages of tall fescue

- Good shade tolerance
- Non-invasive into flower beds and natural areas
- Can renovate using seed
- "Good" drought tolerance
- Year round dark green color
Disadvantages of tall fescue

- Summer thinning
- Brown Patch
- Overseeding
- Not low maintenance
Why is tall fescue so prevalent in the Piedmont?

• Tradition!!! We’ve always had a tall fescue lawn.
• Low cost for establishment.
• Desire for a green lawn year-round.
Cultivars
pick a blend of tall fescue cultivars
or (better) a TF / KBG (10%) mixture
K-31 not recommend

Tall fescue lawn (c.s.)
Centipedegrass

- Lazy Man’s Grass
- Very low maintenance
- Little watering needed
- Little fertilization needed
- Tolerates low pH
- Tifblair (sod)     Common  (seed)
Centipede grass

Less desirable traits:
1. Very slow growing (sleeps, creeps, leaps)
2. Genetic light green color
3. Possible winterkill in very cold years
Over-maintenance can result in decline
Other Turf Choices

Original TF seeding

Reestablished lawn using Zoysiagrass
Zoysiagrass cultivars

**Fine texture:**
(golf use) Emerald, Cavalier, Zorro, Zeon, Diamond

**Medium texture:**
Meyer, *El Toro*, Crowne, Jamur, Palisades, Empire

**Seeded:** Zenith, Companion
El-Toro Zoysiagrass
Common Bermudagrass

Cultivars
Seeded: Riviera or Princess for highest quality
For All Species: Soil Preparation is Essential for Success

• Do not forget soil preparation for sodded lawns as well as seeded.
  – Relieve construction compaction
  – pH adjustment
  – Fertilization based on soil tests

• Poor soil preparation is often a significant cause of long term failure.
No Automatic Irrigation
Full Sun

Zoysiagrass (4)
Centipedegrass (3)
(for low maint.)
Bermudagrass (2)
Tall Fescue (0)
Automatic Irrigation
Full Sun

Zoysiagrass (5)
Centipedegrass (2)
(for low maint.)
Bermudagrass (1)
Tall Fescue (0)
No Automatic Irrigation
Medium Shade

Zoysiagrass (3)
Centipede grass (2)
(for low maint.)
Bermudagrass (0)
Tall Fescue (1)
Automatic Irrigation
Medium Shade

Zoysiagrass (3)

Centipedegrass (2)
(for low maint.)

Bermudagrass (0)

Tall Fescue / KBG (1)
If you could replant your own home lawn with any cs or ws grass, what would you choose

Zoysiagrass (4)
Tall Fescue (1)
Minimize irrigation and maintain 90 – 100% cover

Zoysiagrass (3)
Bermudagrass (1)
Tall Fescue (1)
Introducing the New SYNlawn Synthetic Grass

Now offering the largest selection in the industry with over 40 styles of artificial grass products to suit any application at any budget.

- SYNAugustine Collection
  - A combination of wide blades made of tape yarn and single strand blades made of monofilament blend to form the realistic characteristics of SYNAugustine. The tape yarn can also be fibrillated (or broken apart) to create varying blade widths to suit your liking. The multiple colors complete the look to create this replica of the popular St. Augustine grass.
  - Collection Overview
    - Number of Classes: Available in SYNlawn, SYNlawn Premium and SYNlawn Platinum classes.
    - Number of Styles: Available in 1 different style(s).
    - Price Range: Starting at $2.99/sf up to $2.99/sf.

- SYNBlue Collection
  - The SYNBlue collection consists of two styles made of 100% nylon fibers. Using nylon monofilament and texturized nylon, SYNBlue provides resiliency and strength beyond that of any synthetic grass on the market. These characteristics, plus warranties from 8-10 years, help to make SYNBlue the ultimate performer in high traffic areas and to provide a safe clean environment for kids and pets.
  - Collection Overview
    - Number of Classes: Available in SYNlawn, SYNlawn Premium and SYNlawn Platinum classes.
    - Number of Styles: Available in 2 different style(s).
    - Price Range: Starting at $4.99/sf up to $6.29/sf.

- SYNRye Collection
  - Like SYNBlue, the SYNRye collection is available in two styles of artificial grass made of 100% nylon. The SYNRye construction is modified slightly from SYNBlue and offers a tighter, more random appearance. With the introduction of the new Premium class, SYNRye now uses a light brown thatch in the root zone to further enhance its realistic appearance. SYNRye products carry a warranty up to 10 years and are ideal for high traffic, play areas, pet areas and sloped landscapes.
  - Collection Overview
    - Number of Classes: Available in SYNlawn, SYNlawn Premium and SYNlawn Platinum classes.
    - Number of Styles: Available in 2 different style(s).
    - Price Range: Starting at $4.99/sf up to $6.29/sf.

- SYNTipede Collection
  - Long blades and varying color help give the SYNTipede collection of artificial grass products its natural appearance. Using soft polyethylene monofilament blades, this collection gives the illusion of natural grass with multi-directional blades. SYNTipede comes with warranties ranging from 5-7 years and are recommended for problem areas, low-light areas recommended for problem areas, low-light areas and moderate foot traffic.
  - Collection Overview
    - Number of Classes: Available in SYNlawn, SYNlawn Premium and SYNlawn Platinum classes.
    - Number of Styles: Available in 3 different style(s).
    - Price Range: Starting at $2.49/sf up to $3.49/sf.

- SYNFescue Collection
  - SYNFescue utilizes polyethylene tape yarn and texturized nylon to create varying blade widths and multi-directional blades. When installed, SYNFescue is broken up during the fibrillation process to provide the soft, thin blade appearance of natural Fescue. This collection of artificial turf products comes with a 5 year warranty and requires infill. SYNFescue is recommended for landscapes with moderate foot traffic.
  - Collection Overview
    - Number of Classes: Available in SYNlawn, SYNlawn Premium and SYNlawn Platinum classes.
    - Number of Styles: Available in 1 different style(s).
    - Price Range: Starting at $2.99/sf up to $2.99/sf.
Mixing different species of w.s. grasses is not recommended.
Raleigh St. Augustinegrass