

# Annual Lawn Irrigation Requirements

- *Colorado Front Range* -

Supplemental irrigation requirements for the following lawn grass species assume:

- “Normal” precipitation (10-11 inches, April-October) and summer temperatures
- Good irrigation coverage (80% efficient irrigation system coverage)
- Extended drought and/or higher temperatures increase water needs for ALL grasses
- Kentucky bluegrass (KBG) will need 24-26 inches of supplemental irrigation per growing season to produce a lawn of good to excellent quality.
- Lower (but acceptable) quality KBG lawns can be grown with as little as 15-20 inches of irrigation (with normal precipitation and good irrigation coverage)
- Tall fescue may need 10% less irrigation than KBG (20-22 inches) IF it can grow deep roots and substantial subsoil moisture exists
- Tall fescue may require MORE irrigation than KBG if planted on poor/shallow soil, when subsoil moisture is deficient, or where deep rooting does not occur
- Fine fescue lawns will require 18-20 inches (where it can form deep roots)
- Buffalograss and blue grama lawns will require 8-10 inches (1-2 inches of irrigation per growing month) for a GOOD quality lawn that will tolerate moderate traffic/use
- Bermudagrass irrigation requirement is similar to that of buffalograss, or slightly less
- Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, buffalograss and bermudagrass can become dormant and survive prolonged periods (1-2 months) without precipitation and irrigation; tall fescue lawns often die or become thin when deprived of water for similar time periods